



EMPEROR'S DOMINATION

BOOK 07

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Emperor's Domination

(帝霸)

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Synopsis

One million years ago, Li Qiye planted a simple water bamboo into the ground.

Eight hundred thousand years ago, Li Qiye had a koi fish pet.

Five hundred thousand years ago, Li Qiye cared for a little girl.

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In the present day, Li Qiye woke up from his slumber;

The water bamboo reached the apex of cultivation;

The koi fish became a Golden Dragon;

The little girl became the Nine Worlds' Immortal Empress.

This is a tale regarding an immortal human who was the teacher of the Demon Saint, Heavenly Beast, and Immortal Empress.

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Chapter 601: Killing An Army Of Million With The Force Of One

Li Qiye murmured while standing inside the Ancestral Realm: “Legend said that before the Desolate Era, this was the best sacred ground in the Sacred Nether World; only a few territories across the nine worlds were comparable to it. What a shame that such a good place was occupied by these false gods for so long.”

At this point, the Ancestral Realm was ready to meet its enemy. An army of one hundred thousand had amassed under the leadership of eight Grand Gods. Above them was the supreme ruler of this place — the Heavenly God!

The Heavenly God imposingly stood in the sky with the heavens right behind him as if he was the master of myriad dao. He was the tyrant of this realm and his will reigned supreme. Anyone would have to prostrate before this deity.

This was a dreadful existence; even God-Monarchs and eternal existences from imperial lineages would be quite wary in the presence of this being.

The tales told that during the era without Immortal Emperors, no one was his match. Of course, people couldn't verify these words since no one had seen him in action. However, it was undeniable that the Heavenly God's might was dreadful.

All the heaven-defying masters from the imperial lineages watched with bated breaths as their gazes were fixated on their

mirrors.

Meanwhile, in the outside world, the Ancestral City had been destroyed. Some experts from great powers lingered around the ruins, but they didn't dare to step inside, let alone enter the Ancestral Realm.

At this time, the Heavenly God spoke: "Your actions will bring about damnation to the human race." His words formed a mantra that suppressed the heavens. Against this type of compelling rhetoric, even Heavenly Kings would fall to the ground.

Li Qiye glared at him and said: "There is too much talking that I do not have the time for. Today, I shall not show mercy to those who oppose me!"

"Animal, don't act so presumptuously!" One of the eight Grand Gods interjected with a loud cry.

This was met with a swift rebuttal from Qin Guangwang: "A bunch of pretentious false gods still dare to act arrogant here? Tell that devil underground to come out!" With that, he rushed forward to pave a path for Li Qiye.

"Boom!" Layers of defensive perimeters rose up from the Ancestral Realm. Each layer carried the power of an invincible character.

"Break!" Qin Guangwang's three bloodswords slashed the sky

with a world-destroying power and flew towards the barriers while he himself threw his trident at the same time.

“Rumble!” In the face of the trident and the three bloodswords, the defensive barriers of the realm trembled. One attack already caused the realm’s light to darken.

His prowess shocked the great army, and all eight Grand Gods’ expression greatly changed. Even the Heavenly God standing in the sky became more serious.

An extremely archaic existence from the Myriad Bones Throne was astonished as well as he commented: “Even our patriarch’s number one divine general couldn’t be any better than this in the past.”

“Boom! Boom!!!” Right when Qin Guangwang attacked, Li Qiye’s ninety-nine cannons began to bombard the barriers as well.

Qin Guangwang alone was terrifying enough, but with the help of the cannons, the Ancestral Realm’s barriers couldn’t withstand it despite their own formidable power.

“Bang!” With one last blast, a horrifying hole formed on the barrier after the combined efforts of Li Qiye and Qin Guangwang. The two then passed through the barrier into the realm.

The army of one hundred thousand cried out at this time: “Kill them!” All of them formed an extremely harrowing grand

formation. In just a split second, the soldiers appeared to be bolstered into an endless army that consisted of 80,000,000 divine soldiers.

A great formation such as this would cause even gods to quiver; 80,000,000 divine soldiers could completely crush the Sacred Nether World with ease.

Li Qiye looked at the mighty army then told Qin Guangwang: “You deal with the Heavenly God’s group, I will take care of this grand formation.”

“Okay!” Qin Guangwang responded with a nod.

At this time, Li Qiye boldly stepped inside the formation.

“Kill!” He was surrounded by the endless army in the blink of an eye. The ninety-nine black holes hovering around his body fired instantly.

Meanwhile, Qin Guangwang flew into the sky and screamed out: “I have waited for this day for a very long time!” He pointed the three swords at the eight Grand Gods while his trident carried an unstoppable momentum that flew towards the Heavenly God.

The gods let out a battle cry and took action at the same time. Their divine weapons roared as divine laws appeared beneath their feet. The nine of them used an unstoppable momentum to plow their way towards Qin Guangwang.

At this moment, all of them were extremely cautious since they knew they had encountered an absolutely terrifying enemy. Qin Guangwang was an unbeatable Godking; his strength was enough to sweep through the nine heavens and ten earths.

The invincible Qin Guangwang roared as well and fought against nine by himself with his demonic bloodswords and the unstoppable trident.

However, the Heavenly God and the eight Grand Gods relentlessly attacked to stop Qin Guangwang. They had no other choice; either he would die, or they would perish.

“Rumble!” Meanwhile, inside the grand formation, Li Qiye used his most overbearing style to unleash the ninety-nine cannons; each cannon aimed towards a different direction.

Amidst the grand formation, countless divine soldiers could be seen. Each of them was stalwart and holy as if they were actually troops from the immortal world. However, despite their numerous and brave attacks, they were bombed to pieces by the cannons. The tidal-like onslaught couldn't get close to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye unleashed powerful attacks one after another. He trod among the vast grand formation as his tiny figure seemed to be lost.

The truth was that this was not his first time seeing this unstoppable formation. This time, he met it head-on only to get

familiar and recall some memories. Although it seemed that he was lost within the formation, the army still couldn't get close to him despite their efforts due to being blown into pieces by the cannons.

After finding the familiar sensation in the formation when some time passed, Li Qiye used an amazing speed to reach the center of the formation — this was also its weakness! He roared: “Have another taste of these unstoppable cannons!”

With that, the ninety-nine holes arranged themselves to form a gigantic cannon array that locked onto the center of the formation.

“Boom!” With a huge blast, the black light from all ninety-nine cannons was concentrated at the same spot and fired. The power of this shot was absolutely peerless; it was no weaker than a Heavenly Annihilation, capable of killing gods and immortals!

“Boom!!!” Finally, the unbeatable formation was completely destroyed. The 100,000 troops revealed their true selves as the remnants of the blast went on and caused the army to fly. In just a second, the majority of them went belly-up from this shock wave.

“Boom—boom!” Li Qiye defeated the grand formation in one breath and didn't show any mercy. The ninety-nine cannons aimed for the huge army once again.

With shrill wails, mangled flesh flew everywhere. The bombardment of the cannons rendered this huge army into dust in a short amount of time.

The imperial elders back at the Sacred Nether World couldn't hide their amazement and gasped while watching this scene.

After destroying the 100,000 man army with his cannons, the remaining experts from the Ancestral Realm didn't dare to approach Li Qiye.

In the sky, Qin Guangwang was still fighting the Heavenly God and the eight Grand Gods, causing the heaven and earth to collapse and the moon and stars to lose their brilliance. The eight Grand Gods were full of wounds from being continuously pushed back by Qin Guangwang's bloodswords; they were clearly not a match.

However, the Heavenly God was indeed worthy of his title. He alone fought against Qin Guangwang's trident. Although he was not at an advantage, at the very least, he could still withstand the assault. Without his help, the other eight gods would have been massacred by Qin Guangwang long ago.

"But... this is the Ancestral Realm!" The imperial elders from various sects all took deep breaths while watching this scene.

The archaic existence from the Myriad Bones Throne that had been sealed for many years and was on the verge of dying murmured: "Although the Ancestral Realm is strong, Necropolis' Imp is no less notorious. Legend states that he is an extremely old and invincible existence."

Another ancestor from the throne of bones asked: "Does Ancestor know his identity?"

The near-death existence replied: “Yes, I have heard of it from our Patriarch Immortal Emperor when he spoke about Imp. This was a very, very old story; Imp is even older than our Patriarch Wan Gu.”

The other ancestors all felt a chill running through their spines after hearing this. Immortal Emperor Wan Gu tested his dao during the Desolate Era, but if Qin Guangwang was even older, how was it that he had managed to live for so long?

At this point, Li Qiye climbed to a highland — the center of the Ancestral Realm. This place was abandoned and only had a few large ancient temples towered here.

This land was out of place in this realm. The entire realm was extremely sacred; springs were everywhere and lotuses bloomed with every step. Each inch of the earth was covered by a sacred breath. However, this desolate land seemed to have been abandoned.

In the Sacred Nether World, the imperial mirrors from the sects followed Li Qiye’s path. Many people were quite confused once they saw this highland as well.

A Simple Mountain Ancestor quietly asked: “Where is this place?”

An older existence in his sect took a calming breath before saying: “Legend states that this is the divine shrine of the Ancestral

Realm that was used to worship the various senior gods of this place.”

“Open!” At this time, Li Qiye shouted and recommenced the bombardment with his cannons.

Chapter 602: Five Fiend Lords

In an instant, these ancient temples emitted a divine pillar of light that reached the sky. Unfortunately for them, these cannons could even suppress the Ghost-Devourer, let alone these temples.

“Buzzz!” After these old temples collapsed, an endless light spewed out from the highland, seemingly wanting to protect this land.

Li Qiye didn’t care for it and continued to fire his cannons. Eventually, this protective power could no longer hold and began to crack.

Meanwhile, inside Necropolis, the Ancestral Flow Master who was seated on her stone throne softly sighed and murmured: “With you shooting randomly like this, what will you use to fight that ghastly creature underground? If you focus all of your cannons to fire at it, then you might be able to suppress it for some time! But now, you unleashed half of your firepower all at once...”

“Boom!” Finally, the highland was completely annihilated by Li Qiye as a new vast landscape appeared before everyone.

This was a huge basin that spanned for millions of miles. The mist hovered around this place as if it was hiding a monster. Taking one step further was the same as descending into a world of darkness.

The most terrorizing and dreadful matter was that this gigantic

basin was full of corpses. Countless corpses were piled on top of one another like a mountain or an ocean. No one knew how long this piling of corpses had been going on, but these corpses were still quite intact without any signs of decay.

Back in the Sacred Nether World, the elders were shocked to see this scene through their mirrors. There were too many to count from this gigantic pile of corpses.

Someone meticulously looked at these ancient corpses. From their features, one could tell that most were from the Desolate Era and they consisted of various races — ghosts, humans, golems, charming spirits... However, at least seventy percent were from the ghost race.

One ancestor muttered: “There must be at least ten million corpses here. This was the slaughtering of an entire realm!”

Anyone would feel a sense of creepiness while looking at this huge basin covered with corpses. No one knew why the sacred Ancestral Realm would have an ocean of corpses that mainly consisted of ghosts.

The near-death existence from the bone of thrones quietly whispered: “If the Ancestral Realm only relies on the Grand Gods and the Heavenly God, then it would have been destroyed countless times by the Immortal Emperors.”

Another ancestor was quite puzzled and asked his senior: “What do you mean, Ancestor?”

The near-death existence shook his head and replied: “The Ancestral Realm is not a good place at all. During the Desolate Era, our Immortal Emperor Wan Gu had attacked it as well. Alas, he was unsuccessful.”

This revelation shocked all the ancestors of the bone of thrones. One of them exclaimed with fright: “How... could that be? The Ancestral Realm... is the origin of our ghost race!”

Although the ghosts in the Sacred Nether World didn’t believe that their progenitor lived on in the Ancestral Realm, the great powers never denied the claim that it was the origin of the ghosts.

When it came to the possible places where ghosts originated from in the Sacred Nether World, the Ancestral Realm was the most likely candidate, just like the Eastern Hundred Cities for the humans back in the Mortal Emperor World.

Immortal Emperor Wan Gu was the first emperor of the ghost race, yet he had attacked the Ancestral Realm — this news would scare many people to death. It was understandable for Immortal Emperor Fei Yang or Immortal Emperor Qian Li to attack the Ancestral Realm. They were outsiders after all, and they would attack the realm so that the humans and demons could have more room to live.

However, Immortal Emperor Wan Gu was the pride and glory of the ghost race, so why did he attack the Ancestral Realm? There was no rational explanation for this.

The old ancestor of the throne of bones shook his head and said: “Among the ghosts in the Sacred Nether World, our emperor was not the only one to attack the realm. Do you all know why there are so many ancient clans living reclusively in this world? It is because there are many of them that had previously attacked the Ancestral Realm, such as the ancestors of the War Clan.”

All the other ancestors were quite astounded. One of the ancestors of the War Clan was an amazing Immortal Emperor, but the War Clan did not try to control the rest of the world like the other imperial lineages. After their emperor disappeared, the War Clan left the secular world; no outsiders knew where they were staying.

At this moment, Li Qiye had entered the corpse-filled basin while the spectators in the Sacred Nether World watched with bated breaths.

A black smoke emerged and filled the entire basin upon Li Qiye’s intrusion, then a terrifying voice appeared: “You shouldn’t have come to this place!”

Ferocious black shadows rose from the mountain of corpses. They emitted a murderous air like fiends crawling out of the ground.

Thousands of ghastly creatures rose up from the ground as well. These creatures emitted an evil aura that instilled fear in all; it was clear that they were extremely powerful. These ghosts were led by

five creatures with crowns on their heads. The sentence from earlier was uttered by one of them.

These creatures looked like humans yet also ghosts; some had three heads and six hands, others had fiendish horns, and some had terrifying deformed bone spurs protruding from their bodies...

The ancestors examining these creatures all took a deep breath since the five commanding ghastly creatures emitted a shiver-inducing aura. One ancestor asked himself: “Are these five Godkings?”

Five creatures of the Godking level — these were dreadful existences capable of sweeping through the entire world!

“So it is the five Fiend Lords.” Li Qiye was still very calm in the face of these thousands of fiends while he looked at the five fiends with crowns.

He continued on: “Immortal Emperor Fei Yang decapitated all five of you in the past, making your heads roll like potatoes. After such a long time, all of you finally managed to find your skulls again.”

One of the five Fiend Lords said with a devious smile: “Hahahaha! Naive fool, we are eternal!”

“Eternal?” Li Qiye burst out in laughter then slowly uttered: “Don’t flatter yourselves. Your so-called eternity is only because

you all obtained the Ghost Ancestral Tree!”

All the ancestors stared at each other, perplexed, after hearing this. To the ghost race, the Ghost Ancestral Tree was only a legend, and no one had seen it before. For millions of years, many ghosts didn’t believe that this tree existed in this world, that it was only a lie told by future generations.

But now, Li Qiye revealed such a shocking secret; this was too hard to believe.

One of the five Fiend Lords smiled ominously: “Hahaha! What an interesting little human. No wonder you made it all the way here, you know too much!”

Another one added: “You ignored the accepting heavens and barged into the unwelcoming hell! Today will be your funeral!”

“Is that so?” Li Qiye responded with a smile before taking out the ancient temple and released the Ghost-Devourer.

The devourer instantly appeared before everyone. While Li Qiye stroked it playfully with one hand, his other hand was holding the Ghost-Devourer Lock.

Li Qiye then chuckled and said: “I know you guys are very amazing, so I have prepared a gift for you fiends.”

The five Fiend Lords became aghast after seeing the devourer and

exclaimed: “How... How could you have let it out?! Impossible!”

The other ancestors didn't know what the devourer was, but it was surely formidable judging by the five Fiend Lords' frightened expressions.

They all wondered: “What is that thing?”

Lan Yunzhu softly sighed and said: “Ghost-Devourer — an existence from the legends. Outside of Immortal Emperors, no one would be able to stop it in this world.”

The five Fiend Lords had cold countenances at this time; they appeared to be fiends from hell as they cried out: “Kill!!!”

The five lords led their army of fiends, heading for Li Qiye. With their roars, they were able to devour the sky and swallow the moon. A terrifying fiendish energy swept through myriad realms with enough momentum to turn the entire nine heavens into the legendary hell.

Anyone who saw this scene wouldn't be able to help themselves from shivering, especially those from the ghost race. They couldn't believe that the Ancestral Realm, the origin of the ghost race, had such terrifying fiends. When these fiends came out, the Ancestral Realm no longer had the appearance of a sacred ground, it was more like a realm of fiends.

An imperial ancestor suddenly thought of something and

commented quietly: “What if the Ancestral Realm was never our ghost race’s origin?”

Back at the Ancestral Realm, the five lords led their fiends to attack as they terrifying howled. Li Qiye let go of the chain, but the collar remained on the Ghost-Devourer’s neck.

He let go of it and slowly spoke: “Go, have a taste of these fiends. You’ll love their taste!”

Chapter 603: Ghost Ancestral Tree

“Grarrrr!” The devourer let out a roar that shattered the heaven and earth, signifying its happiness at being free once more. It ferociously leapt outside in an invincible manner. At this moment, it was the most vicious creature in this world; the five Fiend Lords and their army were not comparable to the devourer.

“Chmmpp! Clangg! Clackk!” Biting sounds appeared. Wherever the devourer went, only corpses would be left as these fiends got torn apart. The five Fiend Lords didn’t last very long before they were torn limb from limb as their black flesh flew everywhere.

This was the embodiment of horror; the devourer was like a meat grinder that only left mangled meat behind. This scene caused the legs of all the spectators to tremble in fear.

However, an even more dreadful thing happened. The five Fiend Lords who were the first to be bitten suddenly came back to life and stood up again. Earlier, they were torn into countless pieces with meat flying everywhere, but in a short amount of time, these little pieces came together, allowing them to crawl back up.

And it wasn’t just the five Fiend Lords, the other fiends quickly came together as well as their torn pieces combined once more.

The imperial ancestors were not only astonished at the devourer’s terrifying power, they were even more aghast due to the fiends: “Just what are these ghastly creatures?”

After being torn into countless pieces, they were still able to reform — this was too abhorrent. These creatures were virtually immortal!

“Die!” The five Fiend Lords angrily shouted. They no longer wanted to attack the devourer and instead rushed together to kill Li Qiye.

However, with a loud roar, the devourer arrived to quickly cull the masses with superb speed. Sounds of flesh being torn appeared once more as the five Fiend Lords were ripped into pieces in the blink of an eye.

Li Qiye didn't even bother looking at this scene, and his cannons didn't fire a single shot either. Although the army of fiends was very strong, the devourer was their nemesis. The devourer was still wearing the collar so it would only listen to Li Qiye's commands. With the lock in his hand, no matter where or when, as long as he was there, the devourer would always be under his control.

He didn't linger behind to watch this battle with the five Fiend Lords. Instead, he turned around to leave. He had more important things to do.

The battle had become a chaotic struggle. The devourer kept on tearing these fiends apart, but they came back together and got up time and time again.

Although these fiends were unkillable, the devourer continued

its rampage while devouring the fiends' thickest fiend energy. Because of this, each time the fiends were torn apart, their recovery speed would be a bit slower. The five Fiend Lords and their army had spent a lot of energy, and rebirth was becoming more and more difficult. It would eventually reach a point where they wouldn't be able to fix their bodies if this continued on.

The fiendish energy that empowered these creatures was the most delicious feast to the devourer, so it was very excited. It had been a long time since it tasted something this delicious!

The devourer's torture became increasingly cruel as it tore off the flesh and tendons of the five Fiend Lords. The thousands of the other friends were also ripped into thousands of pieces before the devourer let them go. It wanted to suck the energy of these things dry.

Anyone would be horrified at this scene, whether it was due to the might of the devourer or the resilience of the fiends.

"Ahhh!!!" A shrill shriek emanated throughout the Ancestral Realm at this moment. Currently, the sky of the realm was bathed in blood as the three bloodswords split the eight Grand Gods into numerous pieces. Meanwhile, the Heavenly God had been nailed by the trident into the ground; his blood dripped along the ground's little crevices.

This scene was too distressing, especially to the ghost race. When was the last time the Ancestral Realm had been attacked like this? When was the last time the deities of the realm were completely murdered?

At this second, all the ancestors watching the events unfold felt that perhaps the Ancestral Realm would turn into ruins because of Li Qiye.

At this time, Li Qiye was still inside the basin, standing on a low hill. He had moved some of the bodies away to reveal the muddy ground. There was nothing except mud in this place, but Li Qiye had an extremely solemn expression as he slowly uttered: “Heaven Calculating, you little trickster, you better have gotten the spot right or else I’ll use your head as my chamber pot!”

At this moment, Daoist Heaven Calculating in the distant parts of the Sacred Nether World suddenly felt a chill down his spine as if a ghost was watching him.

Li Qiye took a deep breath then took out the Ghost’s Origin Ancestral Key. With a pop, the key suddenly exploded.

It looked like a wooden ruler, but now, all these little wooden pieces were splitting apart. “Buzz!” These little pieces of wood then came together once more and, like metal, melted together to form a golden key!

At this time, Li Qiye pushed the golden key into the little hill below his feet.

“Clangggg—!” The sound of metal doors opening appeared as the hill cracked, revealing a cave. Inside the cave was a not-so-large tree. The body was not too big; two people could hug it completely.

It appeared to be very ancient as if it had been growing for countless eons. Each branch, each leaf had experienced tens of millions of years as the tree passed through the arduous and endless river of time.

However, this tree that had experienced the endless time had been dead with withered leaves and dried branches for a very long time now. Nevertheless, this dead tree was still exuding waves of universal laws — the beginning of life. Each law contained the power of the heavenly grand dao, the primal source of this world.

This dead tree seemed to have given birth to countless existences and was the start of life. Moreover, the fallen universal laws took root on the earth and protected this sky. It was the reason why this place continued to exist.

However, there was a terrifying anomaly — a corpse was attaching itself to the root of the tree as it just lied there. This big corpse was lying head down so one couldn't see its face. The root of the tree was growing from the chest of the corpse. No one knew whether this was its initial state or if someone else planted it on this corpse.

Inside the Myriad Bones Throne, the near-death ancestor suddenly sprung to life once more. He got up from his bed and screamed: “The Ghost Ancestral Tree!”

The other ancestors standing before the mirror lost their minds after hearing these words and exclaimed in unison as well: “The Ghost Ancestral Tree??”

One ancestor gasped then asked: “Ancestor, is it... really the Ghost Ancestral Tree? It really exists in this world?”

Up till now, everyone thought that the tree was only a legend. Too many ghosts disputed its authenticity because this tree had a connection to another interpretation, a different theory of the ghost race’s origin.

The near-death ancestor sat back on his bed and spoke with a feeble tone: “Although... I have never seen the real Ghost Ancestral Tree... Immortal Emperor Wan Gu had left behind a book that contains a picture of this tree!”

This answered moved all of the Myriad Bones Ancestors. If the tree really existed, then what they believed to be the origin of the ghost race was actually false!

Li Qiye looked at the corpse under the Ghost Ancestral Tree and heaved a sigh of relief as if a gigantic weight had been lifted off his back. He murmured: “Fortunately that isn’t it.”

“Coughh—” The ground below the tree cracked as a pair of devil hands reached out. No one had climbed out just yet. An ancient yet awe-inspiring voice appeared: “Who is disturbing my slumber?”

This ancient yet substantial voice caused all the ghost ancestors back in the Sacred Nether World that were staring into the mirrors to palpitate. The Ancestral Realm had always claimed that the ghost progenitor was sleeping within, so now that such a voice was

ringing from the earth, how could the ghost ancestors not become alarmed? Could it be that their progenitor was about to come into being?

All of the ancestors' eyes were fixated on their mirrors. A monster crawled out of the ground; its characteristics consisted of a gigantic body, a human head, and a snake's body. Countless towering bone fragments protruded from its back. It also had a huge horn the color of crimson blood.

However, the most terrifying characteristic was the strange image that appeared behind its back. One world of just pure-white bones, a world of silence, a world of death. At that place, countless white bones paved the road and were the foundation for the pavilions and temples — the dwelling of a death god. Anyone would feel creeped out looking at this world built by bones; they would feel uncontrollable dismay.

Myriad realms and worlds trembled before this monster. It emitted a terrorizing aura that was perhaps only a bit weaker or even equal to the Ghost-Devourer's.

Chapter 604: Heaven Outcast True God

“This... This... is our progenitor?” The ghost ancestors jittered at the sight of this monster.

Even ancestors inside the Myriad Bones Throne who had once swept through the world were horrified by this creature: “Our progenitor is this thing?”

Although the ghost race had many branches with different appearances, and some were even extremely ugly, this monster was completely different from what the ghosts imagined their progenitor to look like. They didn’t want their progenitor to look like an evil fiend!

The near-death ancestor from the throne of bones murmured: “Heaven Outcast True God!”

Another ancestor quickly asked: “Ancestor recognizes that thing?”

The weak ancestor shook his head and replied: “I don’t recognize him, but I have seen him in an ancient book. There was only a name and no writings about the Heaven Outcast True God’s background.”

Despite the monstrosity standing before him, Li Qiye didn’t bother to bat an eye and spoke slowly: “Heaven Outcast, if you are the only one in this place, then I will be very disappointed. I didn’t come for an abomination that is neither god nor devil like you.”

The Heaven Outcast True God was not angry. It stared at Li Qiye intensely with his dreadful eyes: “Such a big tone. Little brat, you know my identity?”

Li Qiye slowly answered: “Others might not, but I know a thing or two. You have lived for too long so you should just die already. Moreover, in the long years, you have committed many atrocious deeds, and countless True Gods refused to accept you as one of them. In their eyes, you are nothing but scum!”

The Heaven Outcast True God burst out in laughter and said: “Hahahaha! This is called ‘the virtuous won’t live long while the villainous will live on for a thousand years’. Actually, it would be more accurate to say for millions and millions of years... How many of those stubborn old geezers are still alive in this world? Hahaha! There are no more True Gods in this world, I am the only one left!”

Li Qiye smiled and calmly said: “If you are the only True God left, then from now on, there will be no more True Gods in this world.”

The Heaven Outcast True God stared at Li Qiye after his bold declaration and replied: “Brat, if you were an Immortal Emperor, then you might be able to utter that phrase, however...”

“However what?” Li Qiye interrupted him and aimed the ninety-nine cannons in his direction before slowly uttering: “How much time do you think you will need to get over here?”

The Heaven Outcast True God looked at the ninety-nine cannons and spoke without any sign of apprehension: “Hahaha! Brat, although the Primal Ghost-Cannons are things left behind by that geezer, they can’t kill me. You have nearly used up all of your ammunition, so how long do you think they can suppress me for?”

Li Qiye calmly replied: “Enough time for me to kill you. Heaven Outcast, your strength is far from an Immortal Emperor’s. You can’t even compare to the Ghost Devourer so there is no need to posture in front of me. If you were an emperor, then you could brag all you want.”

The True God looked over at the devourer. His pupils narrowed before looking back at Li Qiye with a glimmer of astonishment. He remained unperturbed and laughed: “Hahaha! I enjoy courageous brats like you. I want to see how you will kill my unkillable self.”

Right when the True God intended to take action, a shadow descended from the sky. It was Qin Guangwang! After killing the eight Grand Gods and the Heavenly God, he immediately rushed here.

Qin Guangwang arrived before Li Qiye and gravely spoke: “Young Noble, Heaven Outcast is mine. I want to personally decapitate him. Young Noble can go seize the Ghost Ancestral Tree in the meantime!”

“Oh? Look who it is.” The Heaven Outcast True God looked at Qin Guangwang and said: “Isn’t this the dog who ran with his tail between his legs? What can you do without your master?”

Qin Guangwang's eyes became fierce as he spoke in an awe-inspiring tone: "Heaven Outcast, your hands are stained with the blood of my ghost race. Today, I will cut off your dog hands and decapitate you and offer them to the ghost race!"

The True God laughed in response and asked: "Is that so? What chance do you think you have? In the past, perhaps you had two or three percent, but now? I have an immortal body!"

He was neither in a rush nor was he angered at all by the provocation. He felt that Li Qiye and Qin Guangwang were nothing but ants who were about to die.

Qin Guangwang exclaimed sonorously: "You will die today!"

"Clankkkk!" With a snapping sound, Qin Guangwang's chest split open as an enormous light rushed out in the form of a vast sea of blood.

Qin Guangwang then roared: "Ancestors! Allow me to use myself who has sinned to contribute to the ghost race today! In the past, I was a coward, but I shall be a coward no more. I will let the ghost race have a new beginning, I will let the endless eras see the light again!"

In this instant, back in the Sacred Nether World where the Kingdom of Heaven resided... Within the endless world, a divine light shot out. It pierced through myriad realms and reached Qin Guangwang's body in the blink of an eye.

“Ommmm—” The hymn of the sword appeared along with the sound of bones breaking. Qin Guangwang then drew out a sword made out of his own bones.

The moment this bonesword appeared, a murderous aura filled the entire heavens while its light encompassed the Ancestral Realm. The hymn of the sword reverberated continuously; it was the number one sword in terms of bloodlust, a sword capable of cutting through all things!

The True God’s expression became serious after seeing this scene and said: “So that old geezer still has one breath of life left!”

Qin Guangwang pointed his sword at the True God and said: “Heaven Outcast, I will use my primordial bones to take your head for my people today!”

With an unbeatable sword intent along with an undying will to fight, he was invincible at this moment. He courageously stepped forward and would never turn back; he intended to kill Heaven Outcast.

Meanwhile, inside the Myriad Bones Throne, the near-death ancestor opened his eyes and gazed at Qin Guangwang intensely while murmuring: “I... I... I know who he is!”

Back at the battlefield, Heaven Outcast cried out: “Come then!” With that, many bone spurs shot towards Qin Guangwang.

Qin Guangwang roared as well then recklessly soared forward with his bonesword.

“Boom!” The two sides collided, causing the dome of the sky to collapse as both of them soared even higher.

At the same time, Li Qiye stood next to the Ghost Ancestral Tree and tried to move it. However, despite his own formidable might, the tree wouldn’t budge at all.

Li Qiye chuckled at this development: “Amazing, indeed worthy of being the number one tree in the Sacred Nether World. However, I’ve come prepared.”

With a series of explosions, a Fate Palace appeared and opened itself. The dried trunk Li Qiye obtained back at the Thousand Islands flew out from inside.

“Whoosh!” This tree trunk, with a touch of green, coiled around the ghost tree like a spirit snake.

“Xshhhh!” Little roots as thin as silk grew from this tree trunk and pricked the Ghost Ancestral Tree.

“Buzz!” The sounds of universal laws appeared. The laws that were taking root in the ground and corpse were unearthed and went back inside the tree.

“No!!!” This sudden change caused Heaven Outcast in the sky to scream out. He ignored Qin Guangwang and rushed towards Li Qiye.

“Bam!” The ninety-nine cannons shot mercilessly towards Heaven Outcast, causing him to scream as blood spurted while he was blown flying away.

Li Qiye cheerfully smirked at the blood-stained Heaven Outcast and asked: “Where is your immortal body now?”

The pale True God was aghast as he spoke with disbelief: “Impossible, no one can revive the Ghost Ancestral Tree in this world outside of that old geezer!”

Li Qiye said with a smile: “You are wrong, because I can! As long as I am willing, there are very few things in this world that I can’t do!”

At this time, the tree trunk spread out like a hand and suddenly grabbed the Ghost Ancestral Tree. With a popping sound, it pulled the tree out from the corpse.

At this time, people were able to see that the tree didn’t have any roots since it had been cut by someone beforehand then planted on this corpse.

“Noo!” The horrified Heaven Outcast screamed again and tried to rush forward but was halted by Qin Guangwang’s most powerful

attack!

Heaven Outcast and Qin Guangwang fought as their flesh and blood flew everywhere. Prior to this, Heaven Outcast had an immortal body so he held Qin Guangwang with contempt, but this was no longer the case. The True God barely had an advantage against Qin Guangwang's reckless onslaught with his primordial bones in the form of a sword. It was not easy for him to kill Qin Guangwang either.

“Ahhh!” In the interim, the five Fiend Lords and the evil army all let out terrified wails. These creatures were being torn into thousands of pieces and turned into ashes. The ones that survived the initial onslaught tried to crawl back underground, but they were eventually killed by the devourer.

These creatures and Heaven Outcast all relied on the Ghost Ancestral Tree for their immortality and were refined into the tree. Even an Immortal Emperor wouldn't be able to uproot this tree, but it was done by Li Qiye at this time. Without the aid of the tree, these creatures and Heaven Outcast were no longer able to regenerate.

“Clickk!” The uprooted Ghost Ancestral Tree attached itself to the tree trunk. It turned out that this trunk that Li Qiye obtained from the Thousand Islands was the true root of the Ghost Ancestral Tree — very few people knew this secret.

“So that is the root of the Ghost Ancestral Tree!” After seeing this, Lan Yunzhu finally understood everything as well as why Li Qiye didn't mind spending Myriad Star Water and a young leaf

from the World Tree to revive this stump!

“It is time for your resurrection.” Li Qiye took out his Myriad Star Water and slowly watered the tree. How precious was this liquid? The answer was that it was priceless, but Li Qiye did not hesitate while pouring it over the tree.

Chapter 605: Immortal Emperor Fei Yang

“Hummm—” The dried up Ghost Ancestral Tree began to shine as its withered leaves slowly spread.

“Boom!” But at this time, a beam of light soared out from the basin full of corpses. The ground was opened and all the corpses were blown away.

“Rumble!” A cave appeared with even more dead bodies. However, these bodies belonged to extremely powerful existences when they were alive. All were at least Virtuous Paragons, and some were even Godkings!

All the ancestors that were spectating with their mirrors drew deep breaths in surprise. What was this place? It had so many heaven-defying corpses!

In the center of these corpses was a darkness; one could faintly see an ancient coffin inside. It had a very archaic style, and very few had seen such an old design before.

“Boom!” Four invincible existences stepped out from the darkness that contained the coffin. Myriad worlds dimmed when these existences walked out. While protecting the coffin, they headed towards Li Qiye.

After leaving the darkness, the blood energy of the four terrorized the entire heaven and earth. Who knew how long these existences had been living for? However, their blood energies were

still majestic and grand as if they had never aged through the eons.

This was their most terrifying characteristic. Although the five Fiend Lords and the Heaven Outcast True God all had unbeatable auras, their blood energies had signs of aging. In contrast, the blood energy of these four had zero signs of aging. It was as if they were able to stay young for millions of years.

The ancestors before the mirrors whispered: “Are these... our ancestors?”

All four invincible existences had characteristics of the ghost race; they had a human appearance on the outside but had nether energy surrounding their bodies. This nether energy did not resemble the evil sensation from the five Fiend Lords and instead had a magnificent atmosphere along with a violet shade.

Violet was the defining color of the ghost race. Only the ghosts had violet blood in this world.

“Grawrrr!” When the four invincible existences stepped towards Li Qiye, the Ghost Devourer went back to his side and roared. It had the posture of wanting to pounce and bite these four beings.

Li Qiye had just revived the tree. He stroked the devourer and calmly said: “Don’t worry, don’t worry, they are not my match, just watch.”

“Boom!” At this moment, the four existences took action. Just

imagine, all four were incredible and each of them was not much weaker than Heaven Outcast, so their combined presence reached an astonishing level. The stars in the sky started to fall one by one.

Li Qiye's eyes narrowed in the face of this oncoming attack. The devourer wanted to rush out but was pulled back by him.

“Bang!” At this second, a banner swept through myriad realms in an unbeatable manner across the eons. No one saw from where this imperial banner came from as it planted itself into the ground.

“Boom!” The next moment, back at the Soaring Remembrance Village in the far Distant Cloud, a boundless imperial aura assaulted the entire Sacred Nether World as the roars of dragons and phoenixes appeared. A person who had reigned over the eras took one step and reached the Ancestral Realm, then with another step, he reached the center of the basin.

“Bam!” This person swept forward with his imperial banner and blew away the four invincible existences in one blow. This was true invincibility! Other usages of the word were just fake.

This one man and banner stood at the apex with Golden Dragons and Divine Phoenixes hovering around him. All existences in myriad worlds prostrated before him along with devils and gods.

A supreme figure with a towering style, the one and only across eternity. Despite the long years, this person was still free and proud — still as domineering as ever. The imperial aura that was being emitted from his body caused the entire Sacred Nether

World and its inhabitants to tremble. At this minute, even Virtuous Paragons lost all of their power as their knees met the ground!

“Die!” The four invincible existences cried out and soared forward with their great weapons. They utilized ancient and grand arts. A single attack of theirs could kill a deity!

“Scram!” The supreme figure swept his imperial banner to end all upheaval. No matter how strong one might be, all would become ashes if struck by this imperial banner.

Four heads flew in the sky as blood spurted like springs. All four invincible existences were slain by one banner! This was the true zenith of power!

A few old ancestors recognized who this supreme figure with matchless style in their mirrors was: “Immortal Emperor Fei Yang!”

An archaic ancestor looked at this figure and murmured: “The Soaring Banner, Immortal Emperor Fei Yang... He’s still as domineering as ever after so many years! The most brilliant emperor, the one who soared the highest out of them all!”

After hearing this, the group of ancestors before the imperial mirror became astonished while looking at the supreme figure holding his imperial banner. Even Virtuous Paragons would have to prostrate before him!

Another pale ancestor asked after seeing this: “Is the emperor alive again? Or is it because of descension?”

A supreme existence from a time of antiquity shook his head and explained to his juniors: “Both are wrong. This is most likely just an eternal battle intent. Who would expect that the emperor still hadn’t let this matter go after suppressing the Ancestral Realm for a millennium and left behind an eternal battle intent. This is him wanting to fight against the Ancestral Realm to the very end.”

Right after Immortal Emperor Fei Yang swept through the four invincible existences with one banner, a peerless and ancient voice emanated from the coffin within the darkness: “Fei Yang, you shouldn’t provoke me. In the past when you were still in this world, you were not able to kill me, let alone your battle intent.”

This voice was filled with an unquestionable prestige and frightened people to their very soul, causing them to want to kneel!

Immortal Emperor Fei Yang’s battle intent didn’t answer, but Li Qiye took the opportunity to do so with a smirk: “That is the past and not the present. Without the Ghost Ancestral Tree, do you still think you are a match for an Immortal Emperor?”

The ancient voice from the coffin rang in response: “[Well, well, well](#)... A human junior actually dares to act presumptuously in my presence? However, I still have to thank you for reviving the Ghost Ancestral Tree; it saved me a lot of effort. With its revival, I can now truly be eternal and indestructible for all eternity!”

The expression “well, well, well” here in Chinese carries a sense of disbelief while facing blatant disrespect. I don’t know if there is a better English word to pick for 好 when it is used in this context.

Li Qiye laughed and said: “Although I have never seen you, monster, I know a thing or two. I don’t care if there are any other fiendish creatures underground, all shall end today!”

“The times have changed... So even an ant would act so haughtily.” The voice in the coffin was not angry at all. Instead, laughter could actually be heard.

“Whatever you say. However, before you die, I have one thing to ask.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “In the past, a person had come here. If I remember correctly, all of you have been rotting in here for too long and were on the verge of dying, but nothing happened afterward. You all needed a corpse, but the corpse under the Ghost Ancestral Tree is not the person I am looking for!”

“I understand.” The old voice from the coffin appeared in response: “You are talking about a certain person, right? The one with the [matchless spirit](#). Yes... That person was truly a priceless treasure, but they are not in my possession.”

“Matchless spirit” can also mean beautiful/elegant; however, given the context, I believe it makes more sense to interpret this adjective as someone with some sort of superior characteristics having to do with cultivation. If this person was a good candidate to feed the tree, then matchless spirit makes much more sense than beautiful/handsome/elegant. But keep in mind that it can also have this meaning, otherwise the author would just use the regular words to describe the physical appearance instead of this one.

“Is that so? I’ll find out after I flip your lair upside down.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

“You’re merely an ant!” The ancient voice shouted. A hand reached out from the coffin as strange images appeared. There were scenes of Immortal Monarchs and prostrating True Immortals with countless celestial deities chanting their scriptures. It was as if he was once the ruler of myriad worlds with innumerable inhabitants, a ruler that was once adored and supported by all the gods and devils.

This strange image was too shocking. Even the strange images of Immortal Emperors would, at best, be at this level.

One ghost ancestor stood up before the mirror and whispered: “Is this really our progenitor? Could it be that he had become a True Immortal, the king of all of them?”

The hand stretching towards Li Qiye prompted Immortal Emperor Fei Yang’s battle intent to take action with his Soaring Banner. At the same time, Li Qiye let go of the devourer as it pounced forward with a roar.

Myriad laws shattered from this attack that was accompanied by a deafening explosion. The entire basin collapsed as well. Although the hand couldn’t catch Li Qiye, it managed to stop the Soaring Banner and pushed back the devourer.

This scene was too devastating. The hand managed to stop an

attack from an emperor along with the devourer, who had its infamous strength.

Li Qiye sneered coldly and uttered: “You’re just a devil underground yet you’re pretending to be a True Immortal?” Having said that, he took out the lamp. The black fire shot out a black beam towards the hand.

“Boom!” All the strange images shattered and the hand revealed its true shape in front of everyone.

This was an unnerving hand without any skin; it was laden with red pieces of muscles. However, these muscles were not originally part of the hand and instead had been peeled from someone else then attached to it. These fresh muscles gave off an extremely creepy feeling.

The ancient voice from the coffin appeared once more: “It seems like you all are forcing me to come into being.” At that time, a clanking sound appeared as the coffin was opened and a person stood up from within the darkness. It merged with the dark so one couldn’t see its shape. This was the king of darkness, the tyrant of the night.

When this person stood up, there was no startling atmosphere or horrifying suppression. However, at this moment, countless ghosts prostrated uncontrollably. Not many among the ghosts were able to remain standing.

Chapter 606: Thirteen Immortal Emperors

It seemed that this person in the darkness caused the ghosts to instinctively kneel as if they were seeing their progenitor. Their souls were shivering with fear towards this person; it was as if he could open his mouth to devour the souls of billions of ghosts.

The entire ghost race was horrified at this second. Those who didn't know what was going on prostrated on the ground anyway. Those who knew a thing or two couldn't remain composed; even Virtuous Paragons were affected. They knew something ominous had happened.

“Whoosh!” The person in the darkness reached out. His hand swept towards the devourer and Fei Yang's battle intent while the other hand went for Li Qiye.

Fei Yang's battle intent with the Soaring Banner could be considered invincible, and the devourer roared then recklessly pounced forward.

“Boom!” Their combined strength was able to push back this hand. The devourer managed to chomp a mouthful of the crimson muscles as it excitedly swallowed it as if it had just taken in the most nutritious meal it had ever eaten. However, its body was also pierced by a finger and its blood spurted out. Nevertheless, it didn't seem to care and had an appearance as if it was the one who got the better deal from that exchange.

The other hand tried to snatch Li Qiye, but the Ghost Ancestral

Tree above his head emitted a bright radiance as countless laws poured down. These laws contained the heavenly grand dao, and the even more incredible matter was the battle armor adorning Li Qiye's body. With a hum, The battle armor that combined with the tree made it seem like there was an apex tyrant taking over Li Qiye's body, protecting it with myriad worlds.

“Rumble!” The ninety-nine cannons bombarded the gigantic hand, but they couldn't repel it.

“Boom!” It grabbed Li Qiye despite him having the battle armor and the Ghost Ancestral Tree protecting him, blowing him away and causing blood to spill everywhere. This showed the mightiness of the person in the darkness, an existence just like an Immortal Emperor.

However, Li Qiye stood straight up in a stalwart manner. Although he was gravely wounded, that attack couldn't take his life.

The person in the darkness couldn't believe it after seeing the armor on Li Qiye's body and exclaimed: “Primal Ancestral Armor! He let you borrow this?”

Li Qiye burst out in laughter then calmly spoke: “I have the Ghost Ancestral Tree and the Primal Ancestral Armor. Although I cannot utilize their full potential, how many moves do you think you will need before killing me?”

“Unfortunately, you are too weak. Even with these two items

along with the devourer and Fei Yang's battle intent, you still won't be able to escape death."

"Is that so?" Li Qiye replied with a smile. With a buzzing sound, all ninety-nine cannons fused into one in an instant and aimed straight for the existence in the darkness.

"Just a trivial little cannon. This toy might be able to suppress the Godking level, but it won't be able to stop me." The person in the darkness spoke with great confidence.

"I know that killing you would not be so easy." The lamp in Li Qiye's hand suddenly emitted an endless black beam that shot to the sky. In just a moment, a black planet enveloped Li Qiye and protected him in its core.

"This thing!" The existence stared at the lamp in Li Qiye's hand and seemed to be able to identify its origin.

"Frankly, this fire is too precious to me and I really can't bear using it. Nevertheless, it is not a bad defensive measure. How many moves do you think you will need to kill me now?" Li Qiye paused at this point for a bit before saying: "I have something else that you should take a look at." With that, he slowly took out another item.

"Hzzzz..." In an instant, strands of laws wove together as a divine spear appeared in Li Qiye's hand.

“Origin Sealing Spear!” The existence in the dark finally changed his expression after seeing this item and uttered: “How could this thing be in your hands? Impossible! No one can borrow it!”

“Others aren’t able to borrow it, but that doesn’t mean that I can’t.” Li Qiye spoke with an indifferent tone: “You have been buried underground for too long and remained ignorant of many things. However, that doesn’t matter anymore since the important point is that this will be the source of your demise!”

“I can’t let you live!” The existence in the dark was shaken. Although one couldn’t see his face, his tone alone showed that he was quite astounded. Clearly, this spear was his nemesis. Other items wouldn’t be able to kill him, especially when he had the Ghost Ancestral Tree that allowed him to become immortal.

However, in the present, Li Qiye had stolen the tree. Moreover, he had the Origin Sealing Spear as well. The existence must kill Li Qiye since he didn’t expect for him to successfully borrow the spear; in the past, this was frankly an impossible matter.

“Boom!” The existence took out his weapon and destroyed countless worlds in the process. His weapon was extremely terrifying; it looked like an ancient fiendish tool that originated at the start of time. Even the devourer was apprehensive of this weapon while the battle intent that belonged to Immortal Emperor Fei Yang became affected and turned dark for a moment.

Both the devourer’s and the battle intent’s prowess didn’t need further explanation. However, the dark existence’s weapon was still able to affect them. This was indicative of its terrifying might.

“Emperors! What are you waiting for? Today is the one and only chance for your ghost race!” Li Qiye shouted the moment the existence took out his weapon. His voice reverberated thunderously throughout the entire Sacred Nether World.

“Die!” The dark existence took action with a strike capable of rending the heaven and earth, time itself, Yin and Yang, and all of eternity. Even the devourer and Immortal Emperor Fei Yang’s battle intent wouldn’t be able to withstand this.

“Boom!” However, at this time, timeless imperial auras filled the Sacred Nether World. Inside the Myriad Bones Throne, one imperial aura woke up. Right afterward, two more awakened as three Immortal Emperors departed from the throne of bones.

Meanwhile, another invincible aura came out from the Thousand Carp River as well. An ethereal figure departed and was followed by a thousand carps.

In another region of the Distant Cloud where the towering Simple Precious Tree was located, two more emperors went straight for the Ancestral Realm’s basin. In the blink of an eye, they had arrived there!

At the same time, within the ancestral ground of the Nether Crossing Swamp, a strand of imperial aura woke up. A golden sea capable of drowning all things appeared along with a ferry. An emperor rode this ferry and quickly entered the Ancestral Realm.

In five extremely mysterious locations in the Sacred Nether World where five ancient reclusive clans were located, such as the War Clan, five imperial auras soared into the sky as five more emperors headed for the Ancestral Realm.

“Boom!” The strike capable of annihilating the nine heavens and ten earths, the most invincible blow in this world that was intended to kill Li Qiye, had been stopped by the thirteen Immortal Emperors.

Three from the Myriad Bones Throne — Immortal Emperor Wan Gu, Immortal Emperor Yang Sheng, and Immortal Emperor Yao Shi. Two from the Immortal Kingdom — Immortal Emperor Di Yu and Immortal Emperor Fan Chen. There were also Immortal Emperor Qian Li, Immortal Emperor Ming Du, and Immortal Emperor Fei Yang along with the five emperors from the reclusive clans. Thirteen emperors in total all arrived at the same place today!

At this moment, the entire Sacred Nether World was suppressed; even the strongest existences felt this oppressive aura while the hidden bosses across the eons felt so much dread that they didn’t dare to breathe too loudly.

All the ancestors watching from the mirrors kneeled on the ground. One of them yelled out in fear: “This... this... is thirteen Immortal Emperors! This... is too unbeatable!”

An older ancestor added: “They are the eternal battle intents of thirteen emperors!”

Inside the Myriad Bones Throne, all the ancestors were stunned and speechless while looking at the mirror. They didn't expect their three emperors to help Li Qiye.

“Wan Gu... All of you...!” The dark existence was taken aback after seeing the thirteen eternal battle intents from the emperors.

Despite his own invincible prowess, victory was not assured against these thirteen intents. However, what posed the most danger to him was the Origin Sealing Spear hovering in the sky.

After taking a deep breath, the dark existence asked: “Why... are all of you working together?”

Li Qiye smiled and answered instead: “This is called ‘persisting in evil brings about self-destruction’. Today has been long overdue; Immortal Emperor Qian Li had come before and knew that killing you was near impossible, so the emperor went to find the eternal battle intents left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Gu’s group. All of them agreed that as long as you lost the Ghost Ancestral Tree and someone successfully borrowed the Origin Sealing Spear, then they would take action to annihilate you. What do you think about that?”

“Brat, if I knew this was the case, then I would have killed you from the start!” The dark existence replied coldly.

Li Qiye answered: “I know. Nevertheless, I was successful since I knew you fiends are greedier than what I imagined. You were

taking a gamble to see if I could revive the tree or not, then you would kill me afterward so that you could possess a real immortal body. Who do you think won the gamble, you or me?”

All the ancestors that heard Li Qiye’s swift explanation had to compose themselves. Not even in their dreams did they think that this plan that had been laid out tens of millions of years ago in Immortal Emperor Qian Li’s generation, a plan that was only now coming to fruition.

After thinking to this point, they were frightened of Li Qiye. This guy had been carrying out the big plan from millions of years ago!

At the same time, the Thousand Carp Elders were shaken as well. They now understood why Immortal Emperor Qian Li chose him as the Guardian. So it turned out that Li Qiye was the person carrying out this grand and ancient scheme!

The dark existence still couldn’t help himself from vomiting blood due to anger despite his training throughout the eons. If he had just killed Li Qiye from the start, it surely would have been without any resistance; alas, he was too greedy. He wanted to see if Li Qiye could revive the tree or not since it was something he had craved for countless ages!

Chapter 607: Destruction Of The Ancestral Realm

The dark existence had been certain of victory, but he didn't expect to jump into Li Qiye's trap instead!

At this time, Li Qiye slowly spoke: "The emperors have waited till this day throughout many long eras. That year, when the five ancient clans were still in the mortal world, the emperors started a crusade against you. Alas... they were not successful. Because of that, they told their clan members to leave the secular world, forcing their imperial lineages to close down. Nevertheless, they still left something behind, hoping for a day to reverse the tides. That day is today."

The dark existence didn't answer. Although the thirteen emperors were not real, their battle intents were enough to threaten him.

Li Qiye spoke: "Emperors, go for it. Carry out your wish today."

In the blink of an eye, thirteen emperors wielded the Origin Sealing Spear that hovered in the sky. It emitted waves of universal laws; each law represented the will of myriad worlds and the source of different races.

This primal power clashed with the entire Sacred Nether World. The emperors with this spear sent out a power capable of suppressing all things. Even unbeatable existences had to kneel before it.

“Die!” The dark existence screamed out and threw out his most terrifying weapon. He was not optimistic in any way, but he had no choice other than to recklessly fight.

“Boom—boom!” The collision from the two sides was so horrifying that it suppressed everyone else. This battle overwhelmed even those who were very far away from the realm.

Eventually, the Origin Sealing Spear finally pierced the body of the dark existence. His body exploded as the darkness evaporated and was replaced with his spilled blood.

“Nooo!” The dark existence screamed miserably after suffering this wound. Right upon his death, a bright light shot out from his body — his True Fate. Although his life had been ended due to this fatal blow, a wisp of divine intent still managed to sneak away.

This divine intent opened up a portal to escape to the endless void. The thirteen battle intents quickly gave chase and Li Qiye gave a command to the devourer. The devourer roared then quickly rushed into the void as well.

After the portal disappeared, the path to the void disappeared along with it. The world became silent. Li Qiye didn’t chase after this dark existence since he had other things he needed to do.

The Sacred Nether World was completely quiet, so quiet that one could hear their own heart beating. The thirteen battle intents disappeared, and a long time later, people could finally heave a

sigh of relief. People who were kneeling on the ground finally stood up.

The ancestors before their mirrors were still not able to calm down as they looked at each other with confusion. Even though they were amazing characters, they were still shocked by the recent events.

Meanwhile, back in the basin full of corpses, Li Qiye stood there silently. There were no more fiends climbing up from the ground.

The ancestors were also anxiously watching him while waiting to see if there were any more powerful existences that would climb up or not. However, after a long time, there were no signs of activity.

One ancestor then commented: “It is over for the Ancestral Realm.” No one expected for it to end this way.

Another ancestor took a deep breath and said: “There will be no more Ancestral Realm or Ancestral City from now on.” This ghost didn’t really know how to feel at this moment; it was a mix between happiness and bitterness since the Ancestral Realm carried a great significance to characters of the ancestor level.

It had been standing strong for so long, but now, it had finally fallen. It was defeated not at the hands of invincible Immortal Emperors, not at the hands of existences that had lasted for eons, but at the hands of a human junior.

Anyone would be caught off guard by such an unbelievable development. From beginning to end, Li Qiye never truly fought; without a single technique, he managed to destroy the Ancestral Realm. This was even more frightening than if he personally destroyed it with his own power.

Although in actuality, it was the thirteen emperors who destroyed the realm, Li Qiye controlled this grand plan that had been in the making for millions of years.

“Buzzz!” With radiating light, the Ghost Ancestral Tree poured down a universal law that took root deep in the ground. Li Qiye then focused his thoughts to sense the situation underneath.

He felt a change underground and whispered in a serious tone: “This is...”

After a long time, he recalled this universal law from the tree and slowly turned around to look at the distant horizon. His gaze pierced the Ancestral Realm all the way to Necropolis.

“Go!” He let go of the Ghost Ancestral Tree. The tree flew up, crossing the realm and flew into the Sacred Nether World.

Everyone watched with bated breaths. This was the Ghost Ancestral Tree whose myth indicated its relationship to the origin of the ghost race, yet Li Qiye was letting it go. If it was anyone else, then they surely would have taken possession of this one and only divine tree, so many were in disbelief of Li Qiye’s decision.

The tree traversed the Sacred Nether World's realms and instantly reached Necropolis, then it took root at the Ancestral Flow. Many existences slumbering at this place suddenly woke up.

The master of the Ancestral Flow, who was sitting in her stone chair, also got up and felt something was amiss. Her eyes shot out a light towards the Ancestral Realm to the spot where Li Qiye was standing and quietly murmured: "You... what are you trying to do?"

Li Qiye stood in the middle of the basin and gently sighed as he looked towards Necropolis: "This is the most I can do; the rest is my own business."

Li Qiye shook his body, creating a clanking sound as the Primal Ancestral Armor fell down.

"Buzzz!" The armor flew out of the realm and back to the Kingdom of Heaven.

When he took the armor from the kingdom, he made it clear that it was only a temporary loan. Now that the feud was over, it was time for him to give the armor back to its owner.

He took a deep breath at this time and asked: "Please help me one more time with the last of your firepower."

With that, the ninety-nine cannons around him rearranged into an array once more to form one gigantic cannon where all of its

power was sent into a final shot.

It destroyed the basin and all became ashes. The power of this final shot caused everyone standing before their mirrors to tremble.

Such a shot was more than enough to destroy an imperial lineage; how terrifying was this?

After exerting all of their firepower, the cannons suddenly dimmed. With a loud explosion, all ninety-nine cannons sank down from the islands as if nothing had happened.

Inside the realm where the basin was destroyed, a maelstrom appeared before Li Qiye. This maelstrom resembled many galaxies intertwining. This silver maelstrom was very mysterious, and no one knew where it connected to.

Li Qiye looked at the maelstrom and murmured: “The mystery of the Ancestral Realm is not the thing I am looking for, but I’ll give it a try.” Having said that, he stepped into the maelstrom.

The moment he did so, back at Necropolis, the Ancestral Flow Master’s heart started beating faster as she yelled out: “Don’t try it!”

Unfortunately, Li Qiye did not hear her pleading. He took out the lamp and used its light; its black flame then shot into the silver maelstrom.

“Boom!” The black light swept through the maelstrom and angered it. A huge vortex that spanned for countless miles was set off like a tidal wave, drowning the Ancestral Realm.

Li Qiye was covered by this silver vortex, but he maintained his composure. He took out the pentagate, the Yin Yang mirror, and other treasures to protect his body then screamed: “I don’t care if you are alive or not, I want an answer today!”

In this instant, his forehead split open and a boundless imperial aura was freed. It seemed as if Immortal Emperors were walking out of his sea of memories. He used all of his secret moves to attack the deepest part of the silver maelstrom.

It was clearly provoked from being attacked by Li Qiye. Inside, countless stars exploded, their blasts heading straight for Li Qiye with unstoppable momentum.

Li Qiye did not give up as he roared and used his invincible weapon to unleash a Resplendent Break.

Meanwhile, imperial auras raged like a storm in Li Qiye’s sea of memories. With an extremely dominating pressure, the auras fought the silver maelstrom!

“Boom!” Finally, a loud detonation occurred as everything exploded. At the last minute, Li Qiye felt as if his body had ruptured.

This blast shook the entire Sacred Nether World. The Ancestral Realm was blown into pieces by the silver maelstrom at this moment; everything had become ashes.

Chapter 608: Stone Medicine World

“No!” The Ancestral Flow Master’s heart skipped a beat after seeing this scene. After a long time, she finally took a calming breath and murmured: “You absolutely cannot die, you still owe me!”

At the same time, many imperial lineages were lit up all of a sudden. The explosion of the Ancestral Realm caused the imperial mirrors to emit a blinding and endless radiance. This was an explosion that simulated the end of the world.

All the ancestors standing in front of their mirrors palpitated at this scene. Many pale ancestors fell to the ground. After a long time, the endless light finally disappeared from the mirrors.

The mirrors lost their aim as only a vast nothingness was left.

“The Ancestral Realm was blown away?” Everyone was dumbfounded at this scene. Although the realm was not as big as the Sacred Nether World as it was only a minor world or a huge heavenly grotto in another world, even an emperor couldn’t easily destroy a minor world like this. At this time, the realm was completely destroyed and disappeared from the earth; the Ancestral Realm was no more.

Inside the Myriad Bones Throne, one dazed ancestor murmured: “What about the silver maelstrom? Did it explode as well?”

The near-death ancestor shook his head and said: “No, it flew

away.”

Another ancestor asked: “Ancestor, what is that thing? It seemed like it had its own consciousness and life. Is it related to the origin of us ghosts?”

“I don’t know.” The ancient ancestor sighed softly and said: “There have been many confusing events today. In my life, I have never seen such amazing things as this before.”

All the other ancestors were quiet. Their ancient ancestor was right, they had never imagined that the Ancestral Realm would be destroyed. Thirteen Immortal Emperors working together was indeed incredible.

Inside the Thousand Carp River, before their own imperial mirror, Lan Yunzhu quivered with her fists gripped tightly, her nails cutting deep into her skin.

“Don’t worry.” Venerable Yang consoled her: “That guy’s fortune is great. My intuition tells me that he definitely won’t die that easily.”

Although he said this, he himself wasn’t so sure in his mind. No one knew whether he was consoling Lan Yunzhu or comforting himself.

At the Simple Mountain Immortal Kingdom, this blast also shook the ancestors before their mirror. Xian Fan was also there to watch

the vast mirror. She murmured: “Don’t die. If you are dead, it would be very boring to have no invincible rival on this long path of the dao.”

Some time after, this news finally made it to Qiurong Wanxue. Her heart fluttered as she slumped into her chair. After a while, she calmed down and stood up to firmly say: “No, Young Noble is absolutely not dead. I believe in him. There is nothing in this world that can kill him, he is still alive!”

With that, she became determined with a serious pair of eyes. A long time later, she took a deep breath and finally made a decision in her mind!

An unknown amount of time after, Li Qiye opened his eyes and took a look around. The first thing he saw was a simple wooden house. Although it was plain, it was very clean, which showed that its owner was a hardworking and meticulous person.

Li Qiye tried to sit up, but he couldn’t move at all. His entire body was aching painfully as if it was about to split apart. He noticed that he was wrapped in cloth; someone had been tending to his wounds.

He quickly tried to analyze his current condition and couldn’t help but smile wryly. His entire body was cracked with heavy bone and muscle damage. It could be said that not a single inch of muscle was intact. During his internal examination, he found that there was something extra inside his forehead. It was a silver light

around the size of a finger. With a more careful look, this was not a silver light but rather a lock or an order in the shape of a sword. Countless silvery lights intertwined in a complicated and convoluted manner. Li Qiye wouldn't be able to understand its mysteries in a short time.

He suddenly remembered the last blow that resulted in the huge explosion. At that time, he faintly sensed that the storm of imperial auras in his sea of memories seized something in the deepest part of the silver maelstrom. Now, he realized that his intuition was correct and that this silver thing was stolen from the maelstrom.

He forced a smile and sighed. This was not the thing he was looking for. Discarding the old plan, he decided to go to the Ancestral Realm for the Ancestral Flow Master. She couldn't do it herself so he wanted to help her.

There was also one more thing, and this was Li Qiye's personal matter; he wanted to find a person. In the past, this person also went to the Ancestral Realm but disappeared later on.

The dark existence said that that person was not with him, and Li Qiye believed this. Once someone reached a level like the dark existence, there was no need to trick Li Qiye.

However, he was sure that the person he was looking for disappeared in the Ancestral Realm. The only thought in his mind now was about the silver maelstrom — this was the crux of the issue.

He gently sighed and uttered: “There will be another chance later on.”

At the very least, he finished two of his wishes so all of his efforts were not wasted.

“You are awake.” Right when Li Qiye was lamenting, the door opened and someone quickly came inside. When this person got close to the bed, Li Qiye saw that this was a healthy and strong young man.

How could this youth not be strong? Other than his head, the rest of his body was made out of rock. Only his head seemed to be made out of blood and flesh. If it wasn’t for his head that resembled that of a human’s, he would be no different from a carved statue.

The youth’s eyebrows were thick and large with a pair of bright eyes that gave him the appearance of a straightforward and simple man.

Anyone else would have a heart attack when they saw a person made of stone, but Li Qiye was very calm. What situation had he not encountered before?

“Where is this place?” He asked the youth. Li Qiye couldn’t move so he knew that this young man had saved him.

“This is Jadeblood Mountain.” The youth answered right away:

“You are hurt very badly so don’t move.”

“Jadeblood Mountain?” Li Qiye’s brows furrowed. He had been all over the nine worlds, but he had never heard of this place.

“Hahaha, my bad, I gave it this name.” This youth was very simple-minded and quickly explained: “This is the countryside of the Stonetreading County of the Giant Bamboo Country. This is where I plant Jadeblood Bamboo, so I gave it the name Jadeblood Mountain.”

“Giant Bamboo Country...” Li Qiye was a bit surprised to hear this and asked: “This is the Stone Medicine World?”

The young man was startled by the question and said: “Of course! Where would this be if not the Stone Medicine World?”

“Stone Medicine World...” Li Qiye was in a daze. He understood that the explosion from the silver maelstrom had broken the worlds’ barrier, blasting him into the Stone Medicine World.

The Stone Medicine World was one of the nine, just like the Mortal Emperor World and the Sacred Nether World. All were considered major worlds.

Li Qiye asked: “This place is the Giant Bamboo Country? Its capital has a gigantic bamboo, right?”

“Yeah.” The youth became even more surprised: “This place is

indeed the Giant Bamboo Country. Do you not know where you are?”

Li Qiye put on a wry smile and said: “It’s a long story; I was on an adventure but there was an explosion in a dangerous location. I was blown away so I don’t know where I was sent to.”

“To be blown away yet still alive, your luck is quite good.” The youth shivered after hearing Li Qiye’s story: “I saw you falling from the sky. When I got to you, your entire body was cracked. Luckily, your heart was still beating or else I would have had to bury you right there.”

Li Qiye looked at the youth and said in a serious manner: “You saved me... I will repay this life debt later.”

The youth scratched his head and laughed: “Hahaha, you are too polite. The truth is that we have a similar bloodline. One fourth of my blood is from the human race. You should know that there are very few humans in the Stone Medicine World, so maybe we are actually relatives.”

Li Qiye smiled after hearing the youth and replied: “Perhaps.”

The young man suddenly realized something and quickly told Li Qiye: “Oh right, I almost forgot. I am cooking a medicinal congee for you. Wait a bit, I’ll go get it.” Having said that, the youth hurried away.

“Giant Bamboo...” Li Qiye murmured in a daze after the youth left. Giant Bamboo Country — what an old name. Li Qiye didn’t expect to find himself in this place today.

A few things from the past appeared once more in his head, a past that was covered in a thick layer of dust. After remembering these things, his heart sank as he lamented while sighing.

Tens of millions of years had passed. Li Qiye had undergone numerous life and death situations as well as goodbyes. He had grown used to all of this and could even be considered numb.

No matter the era, he maintained a positive and optimistic mind as he courageously trod forward. Even if he was the last one standing, he would continue to walk alone.

However, there were a few people and things that were especially hard to forget. They were buried deep in his memories, but once the dust was brushed away, he unavoidably recalled them.

After all this time, he had forgotten what it felt like to cry, but the past always had some things that caused his heart to ache upon remembrance.

Chapter 609: Shi Hao

Li Qiye eventually sighed and uttered: “I’m still alive after so many years.” He was quite dejected and sentimental at the moment, but he had to bury some of these old memories deep in his heart. There were a few secrets, a few people, a few matters that Li Qiye had no choice but to seal and act as their guardian by himself!

Right when Li Qiye had many complicated thoughts, the young man carried a bowl of hot porridge inside: “Come, come.” He was very enthusiastic and spoonfed Li Qiye. With a taste, Li Qiye knew right away that there was some ointment inside, so he asked: “This is a healing porridge, you are an alchemist?”

The youth answered: “Hahaha, I am only a Junior Alchemist. At the moment, I am working as a county envoy for the Stonetreading County.”

Li Qiye drank the porridge while chatting with the young man. He made up an identity since he was already used to doing this.

The youth revealed many things about himself. His name was Shi Hao, a messenger of the county who was also responsible for growing Jadeblood Bamboo.

A county envoy also had another title — alchemy apprentice. However, Shi Hao was a Junior Alchemist. His status was much higher than that of an apprentice.

He came from a prestigious clan in the Giant Bamboo Country. Unfortunately, the clan had fallen several generations ago, and there was nothing left from the time of Shi Hao's father. His parents only managed a pharmacy.

Although he was a golem, like he said, one-fourth of his blood belonged to the human race. Shi Hao said that his ancestor married a human girl, a great expert.

From this, it was clear that his ancestor was once extremely distinguished. The Stone Medicine World was the land of golems and demons; humans were a rare sight. If one could marry a female human cultivator, especially an expert, then the person must have come from a great clan.

After generations of decline, the clan had become nothing by his father's time.

Shi Hao was the only male child of the clan and also its only inheritor, so he truly wanted to revive his clan. He was very average when it came to cultivation, but he was a bit talented with alchemy so he chose the path of an alchemist.

This path was not strange at all, because the Stone Medicine World specialized in alchemy. It could be said that this world had the most alchemists out of the nine.

Since the start of time, two-thirds of all the Alchemy Emperors had come from the Stone Medicine World. From this, one could see how the path of alchemy flourished in this place.

There was also a saying in the Nine Worlds: if there are ten alchemists, then seven of them came from the Stone Medicine World.

This world's alchemy was famous everywhere. Countless cultivators had come running to this place in search for medicine.

Although Shi Hao had chosen the path of alchemy, finding success was not easy.

First, refining alchemy was very expensive. Whether it was physique pastes, longevity medicines, fate pills, or ointments, each cauldron required many ingredients. A single batch would range from one hundred to one thousand!

In addition to the financial requirement, one also needed the guidance of a teacher. Outside of secret family recipes for ointments, most recipes for longevity medicines, fate pills, and physique pastes were well known. However, doing a good job of refining them was rather difficult. Alchemy was a form of cultivation; flame control, methods of dan refinement, and incubating the cauldrons were all secrets of an alchemist, secrets that would they would not easily part with.

Finally, one required a good Heavenly Cauldron to refine good medicines. A bad one would have a negative effect on the outcome no matter how skilled an alchemist might be.

Shi Hao lacked all three. His clan had fallen so they had neither

money nor a network. Because of this, he was a mere envoy of the Stonetreading County.

Alas, this was still a chance for Shi Hao. Although the Giant Bamboo Country neither had a system for alchemists nor great knowledge of alchemy, it still had several great guest alchemists.

Shi Hao wanted to rise step by step. As long as he contributed enough while amassing experience, he would then have a chance to enter the county government and have the opportunity to meet some of these alchemy masters.

Another reason why he chose not to join an alchemy lineage but the Giant Bamboo government was because he was an only child. If he joined an alchemy lineage, then he would always be a disciple of that sect. However, he was the only male child of his family; he carried the torch of reviving the clan, so he didn't want to become a disciple of another sect.

Taking a government post was different. This was only a job that required loyalty to the country, so Shi Hao could still maintain his lineage and clan.

He was planting Jadeblood Bamboo on this "Jadeblood Mountain". This place was desolate and not many people came here normally. But now, there was someone to chat with, so the talkative Shi Hao revealed everything about his family and more.

"I almost forgot that you are wounded, please rest." After chatting for a long time, Shi Hao scratched his head and said: "I'll

be right next door. You can call for me if you need anything.”

Li Qiye heaved a sigh of relief after Shi Hao was gone. Li Qiye smiled at the thought of arriving at the Stone Medicine World. A bit later, he commanded: “Come out and heal my wounds.”

A Fate Palace appeared and an Immortal Injury Peony flew out. An ordinary peony would have limited effects on injuries, but this was an Immortal Medicine; it was way above a King Medicine. Its spirit had been living for eight to nine million years. It was the finest grade medicine for treating injuries; it allowed flesh to grow on bare bones and could spout out limbs that were previously torn apart. It could also dispel curses and even had a chance of curing a mortal wound.

Any cultivator would go crazy over this kind of Immortal Medicine. It was a fact of life that cultivators would eventually be wounded, so with an immortal root on them, they would still be able to recover even when their bodies were torn asunder.

This Immortal Injury Peony was one of the several Immortal Medicines that followed Li Qiye from the lost garden of the immortals.

Li Qiye was completely at ease with it curing his wounds. Although his injuries were grave, they were not a problem when he had the peony. With its help, after just three days, the broken bones and torn muscles all reconnected without any harm. However, his internal injuries still needed more time to recover.

Shi Hao saw Li Qiye getting up from the bed and exclaimed: “You healed this fast? That is incredible.” When Shi Hao saved Li Qiye earlier, his body was covered with wounds, but now he could walk again.

Li Qiye replied with a smile: “It was no big deal. My skin and bones are thick and I get injured a lot, that’s why my wounds recover so fast.”

Shi Hao saw that Li Qiye was walking normally and became happy in his stead: “I was worried that your injuries would become worse and was about to ask the county lord for some more ointment.”

“No need.” Li Qiye smiled in response: “I have some ointment with me that has decent effects. I just need some more time to rest and everything will be fine.”

The youth was an honest person, so he accepted this explanation without questioning it and said: “Then stay here until your wounds are fine before leaving.”

“Then I will have to bother you for a bit longer.” Li Qiye said with a nod.

Li Qiye stayed at Shi Hao’s little room afterward. The Immortal Injury Peony quickly cured his wounds. If someone else was injured to the same level, they would be bed-stricken for one to two years, even with the best of ointments.

His body had been struck by the silver maelstrom. A wound from a maelstrom of this level was difficult to recover from. It was even more difficult than creating an entirely new body because it was difficult to drive away the harmful remnants, let alone to recover.

However, since Li Qiye had an immortal root, it was no problem at all. Complete recovery was only a matter of time.

He had only just arrived at the Stone Medicine World and had plenty of time, thus he was not in a hurry.

While healing, he began to study the Death Scripture. This was a supreme heavenly scripture that had existed for billions of years, so Li Qiye read it with a solemn expression.

The book he was holding was the original. It was birthed by the heaven and earth, unlike the Physique Scripture he had before.

The one he had was placed in martial arts manuals while the real one was hidden away. Thus, when he was holding the original Death Scripture, rain and storms appeared in the sky as strange images materialized up above. The appearance of such a supreme treasure heralded great fanfare.

However, Li Qiye was ready with the Heaven Sealing Pentagate; he sealed off his room before taking the Death Scripture out so he could comfortably read it inside.

The strange images from the Death Scripture were incredible,

especially when he turned the pages. Immortal words appeared along with mantras. Nevertheless, these images were sealed in the gates, so they didn't alarm anyone, not even Shi Hao on the other side of the wall.

As one of the Nine Grand Heavenly Scriptures, the Death Scripture was naturally peerless and unique. Its mysteries were boundlessly profound and difficult to comprehend.

However, it was not as prohibitive for Li Qiye. Since time immemorial, which merit laws had he not seen or tried to comprehend? More importantly, Li Qiye completely understood the Physique Scripture and had become used to the heavenly scriptures, so he was quite familiar with its style.

For these scriptures, even the most brilliant geniuses would require decades, centuries, or maybe even longer to understand one of them. However, to truly grasp their profundities, they would need thousands of years — there was no exception.

Nevertheless, Li Qiye had millions of years of experience of researching countless merit laws. He had an advantage that no one else had. No genius could compare to him!

Chapter 610: Madam Zi Yan

These were carefree days as Li Qiye spent his time recovering and researching the Death Scripture in Shi Hao's room.

Today, he woke up early and left the room to see Shi Hao watering half of the Jadeblood Bamboo. He couldn't help but nod approvingly after seeing Shi Hao's busy and diligent figure.

Shi Hao paused his task after seeing Li Qiye and went up to give his greetings: "Good morning, Brother Li."

Li Qiye saw the boy watering the bamboo, so he said with a smile: "I see you watering this large group of bamboo three times a day. It's very rare to see someone so hardworking."

Shi Hao revealed an awkward smile and said: "I have to water them three times a day. I have to hand over a group of bamboo stalks in half a year, and they have to be above two transformations to be considered adequate. If I don't do my best, it would be too difficult to grow a bunch of them that had transformed twice."

He was not the county envoy only for the money, it was also to earn some merits. He yearned for the day he would be able to enter the county court and find an alchemist to apprentice under.

The Jadeblood Bamboo stalks were ingredients for alchemists. Although they grew in the wild, they were very rare, so most sects had to personally grow them in order to refine low-level fate pills.

The alchemic materials needed to undergo transformations, just like the stalks of these bamboos. The higher the number of transformations, the more precious it would be, but it wasn't easy for these bamboo stalks to transform.

Li Qiye looked at the fertilizing water in the big tank and asked: "You made this fertilizing liquid?"

"No." Shi Hao shook his head and replied: "I am only a newbie Junior Alchemist so how could I have the skill to make this type of fertilizing water?"

For alchemists, cultivating plants was a profound field of study. This field was vast and difficult; for example, outside of picking the right location for this type of bamboo, the fertilizing water was also very crucial.

Each sect had their own secret formulas regarding plant cultivation that were not passed onto outsiders. The majority of alchemists would not reveal their secrets.

Shi Hao was a new Junior Alchemist, so he naturally didn't know how to make fertilizing water for the bamboo.

Li Qiye sniffed the water then dipped his finger in before licking a little bit and said: "Burn Autumn Grass down to ashes then add a bit of Charred Mind Mud to it — this is only a common formula."

Shi Hao noticed that Li Qiye knew the formula after just tasting it so he startingly asked: “Brother Li knows how to cultivate medicines?”

“Not too much.” Li Qiye responded with a grin: “In the past, I had a friend who liked to keep a medicine garden. I would occasionally help him so I picked up a thing or two. However, my hobby isn’t related to this field; I can’t be considered knowledgeable.”

“Oh, I see.” Shi Hao was an honest person and Li Qiye’s explanation made sense, so he didn’t suspect anything at all.

He didn’t know that the friend Li Qiye was referring to was the Alchemy God who created the laws for the alchemy dao. However, this trivial matter was nothing to Li Qiye. In the past, he and the Alchemy God didn’t only refine unbelievable pills, they also grew countless medicinal herbs. A few soulgrasses were even created by them.

“I know a method to cultivate Jadeblood Bamboo.” Li Qiye said: “Catch some Tiny Earth Scorpions and stew them completely. Afterward, gather a little excrement from a Jackal-Elephant, then burn Flowertree, Negative Goldgrass, and Wailing Bloodvine into ashes. Mix them together with a 1:30 ratio of water to create this fertilizer — it is very beneficial to Jadeblood Bamboo.”

“Is... this for real?” Shi Hao was a bit doubtful after hearing Li Qiye’s formula.

Li Qiye patted his shoulder and reassured him: “Don’t worry, I won’t mess it up for you. If you want to earn some merit, then follow my instructions. In the past when I was bored, I also planted Jadeblood Bamboo, and the effect was amazing.”

After hearing this, Shi Hao quickly responded: “Okay, I’ll give it a try then!”

One week later, Shi Hao ran into Li Qiye’s room and couldn’t speak properly due to his overwhelming excitement: “Brother Li... It was really successful! The bamboo stalks transformed within just a week. This... is... a miracle!”

“I didn’t trick you, right?” Li Qiye replied with a smile.

Shi Hao excitedly rubbed his hands together and said: “It’s too amazing. If it goes on like this, then I can hand over bamboo stalks that have transformed three times. I’ve never grown them to such a level before!”

Li Qiye smiled after seeing Shi Hao jumping around happily. Li Qiye’s formula was the finest when it came to Jadeblood Bamboo. It took a while for him and the Alchemy God to come up with it, but it was still no big deal to these two.

For Li Qiye, this was an insignificant formula, but for Shi Hao, it was an incredible matter; it was capable of changing his fate!

Shi Hao hesitantly spoke while rubbing his palms together and

asked: “Brother Li... Umm... Can I keep on using your formula?”

The honest Shi Hao wanted to become an alchemist, so he knew that there were some rules. For example, formulas were not to be disclosed to others without permission. Without permission from the owner or the sect, secretly giving a formula to someone else would end with a manhunt.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “It is no problem, you can keep using it. It is just for fun after all, I have no interest in growing medicines.”

Shi Hao bowed to Li Qiye and said: “Thank you, Brother Li!” This had the possibility to change his life, so how could Shi Hao not be appreciative?

“We’re no strangers, yeah? This is how it should be.” Li Qiye said as he patted Shi Hao’s shoulder.

In the following days, while Li Qiye was recovering and cultivating, Shi Hao was watching his Jadeblood Bamboo grow. He was ecstatic to see the process of them transforming.

Meanwhile, a meeting was convened by the royal lord of the Giant Bamboo Country.

The Giant Bamboo Country was not considered a big lineage in the Medicine Domain of this world, and its influence was far below the first-rate great powers.

It was once powerful back during the era of its progenitor, an expert who made many great powers come to offer their respects. At that time, it was not due to the country's power, it was because their progenitor was worthy of respect from all the sects and even the entire Nine Worlds.

The past of the Giant Bamboo Country was not recorded in detail. Future royal lords only knew that when their progenitor established the country, many sects and even imperial lineages from all over the Nine Worlds came to congratulate its founding.

Even behemoths like the Medicine Kingdom and the Jianlong Clan came to celebrate along with many other giants of the Nine Worlds.

Each time the successor royal lords read these writings, they became incredulous. The Giant Bamboo Country never produced an Immortal Emperor so it was quite strange when so many great powers came to celebrate its official creation.

It was a country of demons, and the succession process was not hereditary. After establishing his country, the Giant Bamboo Progenitor established a creed that allowed the most virtuous and talented to rule.

At this minute inside the palace of the Giant Bamboo Country, the current royal lord was Madam Zi Yan; others also referred to her as Her Majesty Zi Yan.

A woman was sitting on her throne with a violet aura and

flickering shadow. Her beauty shamed even the flowers and the moon with her mature allure. However, her sensuality did not diminish her noble elegance, especially her calm and natural demeanor that accentuated her beauty even more.

This was Madam Zi Yan, the current Giant Bamboo Royal Lord. She was called [madam](#) not because she was married to someone, but because it was a title of respect.

This was one of the things that doesn't translate very well. My first translation for this was Lady, but it didn't fit with this context very well, so I chose Madam. Mistress was another one I considered, but Mistress has too many other connotations that won't fit in this case. Matron was another one, but it doesn't have the marriage connotation described in the text. I think in English, most Madams are older/married, so maybe Madam is an okay choice.

She was originally a violet bamboo who finally succeeded in the dao. With a great dao foundation, she was able to take the form of a human. She was a virtuous ruler; she was both adept at strategy and adored talents. She was also very humble and benevolent.

Although she was not the oldest Demon Monarch in the country, she was loved by the other monarchs and citizens, so they choose to call her Demon King.

Keep in mind that it was not easy for a royal lord to be addressed as Demon King or Mortal King. These were titles of respect; only royal lords of the Heavenly King level carried titles such as these.

Today, she called for a meeting with all the other Demon Monarchs to discuss an important matter.

Madam Zi Yan sat on her throne, overlooking all the other demons and subjects to say: “Not long from now, the Alchemy Conference will begin. Our country will participate this time as well.”

Her declaration caused these demons and subjects to look at each other. One subject stepped out to voice his concern: “Your Majesty, alchemy is not our strong point, so it is very difficult to participate. The finances are not an issue, but it won’t be good if we damage our reputation.”

Madam Zi Yan replied: “Victory and defeat are part of life. With lineages like the Alchemy Kingdom and the [Bailian](#) Clan participating, it isn’t shameful for any other participating sects or countries to lose. This conference is very important to us as well, so we must participate.”

Bailian is Hundred Refinements Clan; Jianlong is Annihilating Dragon Clan.

One Demon Monarch pondered then asked: “Where do we go to find candidates?”

Chapter 611: Teaching

Madam Zi Yan answered: “I have sent a message to the Qing Clan. They will represent the Giant Bamboo Country for this Alchemy Conference. However, we still need other candidates, so you all must find other young alchemists. It doesn’t matter whether they are vagabond alchemists or already have a sect; as long as they are capable and willing to contribute to our country, then they will be greatly rewarded. Of course, if your lines have disciples who are willing to participate, then that will be even better.”

All the subjects and demons quickly glanced at each other. Madam Zi Yan’s command was easier said than done.

Although the Stone Medicine World had the most alchemists, the good ones were highly sought after no matter where they went. Those who were a bit talented would have already been snatched away by the big lineages, especially the young ones. Young alchemists were highly loved and always caused competitions for sects who wanted them to join.

Although the Giant Bamboo Country was a big country, it had no advantage over the leading ones.

Madam Zi Yan spoke: “I know this is not easy, but the conference this time is too important to our country. The Alchemy Kingdom has promised that if we do well this time, then we will have a chance.”

A Demon Monarch voiced his opinion: “This is a huge matter to our country, so we monarchs will do our best to support Your Majesty to seize this chance at the conference.”

The madam replied: “That would be best. Fellow Monarchs, try your best to recruit talented alchemists. We will begin our recruitment and train a group of alchemists. Even if we don’t win anything this time, maybe we will have some improvement for the next one.”

With her command, the subjects and monarchs agreed and immediately carried it out.

Back at the Jadeblood Mountain in Li Qiye’s room.

At this time, he sealed the room with the pentagate again and took out one thing — a single stone.

To be more exact, this was the Immortal Stone that he had taken from the pond inside the Prime Ominous Grave’s Water Realm. He finally found the time to take it out after so many battles.

He was quite relaxed when cultivating in this place, so he remembered this stone all of a sudden. Since it was in the middle of the pond, it surely was an amazing Immortal Item. Of course, it naturally was not a match for Lan Yunzhu’s Night Era Flower.

He had researched this stone recently for a long time and finally

figured out its mysteries. Li Qiye held a sharp knife and slowly carved along the runes on the stone. This Immortal Stone was initially very tough, but it became much more brittle when Li Qiye cut along the runic lines.

After going through many layers carefully, the things inside finally saw the light. They were six long swords. Each of them emitted a different color; six swords, six colors. When they hummed, different symbols appeared as well as strange images. Six swords, six different symbols.

Li Qiye was quite surprised to see this as he gently stroked them and murmured: “Although their inherent properties are not equal to the secret among secrets’ Night Era Flower, with enough refinement, they are still quite promising.”

Li Qiye propped up the six swords to look at them meticulously. After some time, he clearly understood their profundity. He searched inside his sea of memories before reaching a sealed recollection. He looked through it and whispered: “I have a sword art that is very compatible with these six swords; what a coincidence that it is also here in the Stone Medicine World...”

Li Qiye put away the six swords as well as the pentagate before stepping out of the room to take in a breath of fresh air. The moment he went outside, he could smell the medicinal fragrance. He followed this scent to find Shi Hao opening a cauldron in the yard.

Shi Hao quickly reported after seeing Li Qiye: “I gathered enough materials for a fate pill cauldron just in time to increase my

proficiency at refinement.”

Having said that, he focused on turning on the flame of the cauldron. He was only a Junior Alchemist at the entry level, so he didn't have his own method of pill refinement. His cauldron technique along with flame control were all common, so he wasn't afraid of them being stolen; he had no qualms with Li Qiye watching at the side.

Because his skill was limited, after telling Li Qiye, he didn't dare to become distracted and focused on the pill cauldron.

He was very careful, or rather, nervous to the point of trepidation. He ignited the flame and carefully refined the medicinal ingredients.

It was not that his nature was careful, but rather he had no other choice. It was not easy for him to gather enough materials for a single attempt at fate pills.

One pill cauldron required a huge batch of ingredients. Even the ingredients for a single transformation fate pill was difficult to gather for Shi Hao. Because of this, he didn't want this cauldron to be ruined. He followed a strict order and abided by the guideline step by step.

Li Qiye only shook his head while watching Shi Hao's pill refinement technique. He couldn't help but give some pointers: “Increase the intensity of the flame.”

Shi Hao hesitatingly said: “But...” He was afraid that the increase in flame intensity would ruin this pill cauldron.

“Quick, right now, increase the flame intensity three-fold!” Li Qiye raised his tone. His shouting carried a compelling force, causing others to listen without resistance.

Shi Hao palpitated as he increased the flame without much further thought. The smell of medicine began to permeate the air.

Li Qiye continued on: “Very good, do not use this technique when strengthening the fire. Use reverse fire manipulation.”

Shi Hao inquired immediately: “What is reverse fire manipulation?”

Li Qiye personally taught him and passed him the incantation. The incantation was quite short and Shi Hao had some talent for alchemy. After Li Qiye’s explanation, Shi Hao learned it right away and used it to fuel the fire.

Li Qiye pointed out: “Very good, you made a little progress. Pill refinement is not just about fueling the fire; these cauldrons have their own life, even the weakest ones are no exceptions. You need to communicate with your cauldron...”

Shi Hao’s talent at alchemy was not of the peerless level. On top that, he was just a beginner. Teaching him well was not an easy thing.

If it was someone else with the same talents and current ability, Li Qiye wouldn't give a damn. After all, it would just be a waste of his time.

However, Shi Hao saved Li Qiye and his personality wasn't bad; he was both hardworking and had a persevering attitude, so Li Qiye decided to teach Shi Hao, leading him onto the path of an alchemist.

Li Qiye didn't always refine pills like other alchemists, but his pill refinement ability was without flaw. Many alchemy standards were created by him and the Alchemy God, so he possessed the best alchemy art in this world. Moreover, he also had the Alchemy God's Grand Canon — no other inheritance from lineages could compare to this.

With a great teacher like Li Qiye, as long as Shi Hao was not overly slow-witted and could learn a little bit, his future would be very bright.

“Boom!” Shi Hao finished the cauldron and one fate pill fell into the bottle, prompting him to cheer: “Success!”

Fate pills were the hardest things to refine for alchemists; it was a test of their abilities. Afterward, he took out the fate pill and looked at the single transformation pill's color with his eyes wide open.

He couldn't believe it as he exclaimed: “This... this has twenty

percent purity!”

One hundred percent was the best possible purity for pills and was signified by a particular color. However, no one was able to reach this level. Single transformation pills needed ten percent purity to take shape and only required one transformation ingredients. These lower level pills had weaker spirits as well as corresponding medicinal effects.

With these ingredients, achieving ten percent purity for single transformation pills was already not bad, but the pill in Shi Hao’s hand had twenty percent purity and also had a great color.

He was extremely emotional and tried to take a calming breath. He didn’t believe that this pill had been personally refined by him: “Such purity can increase a cultivator’s strength at the Provisional Palace level by twenty percent.”

Cultivators below the Inner Longevity realm could use one transformation fate pills. Prior to this, Shi Hao had refined pills before, but he only reached ten percent purity — this was the norm. This type of pill would allow Palace Foundation cultivators to increase their current cultivation by ten percent — a very ordinary effect. This type of fate pill was only at an introductory level and was not worth much.

But now, his new pill with fine coloring could boost a Provisional Palace cultivator’s strength by twenty percent. In just a short amount of time, Shi Hao’s pill refinement level had increased by two to three levels. He himself couldn’t believe it!

Li Qiye looked at the pill and encouraged him: “Not bad for now, keep trying. In the future, even if it is only a one transformation pill, you can still reach thirty percent purity.”

Shi Hao calmed down and slightly bowed towards Li Qiye: “Thank you, Brother Li, for teaching me this pill refinement technique.”

Li Qiye raised him up and said with a smile: “I only pointed out something by chance, it is nothing. This is the reaping of your own efforts.”

Shi Hao looked at him respectfully and asked: “Could Brother Li be a Grand Alchemist?”

Li Qiye chuckled and replied: “What Grand Alchemist, I only occasionally refine pills.”

The path of alchemy had several classifications. From lowest to highest, they are Junior Alchemist, Grand Alchemist, Alchemy Master, Alchemy Grandmaster, Profound Alchemist, Alchemy Saint, Legendary Alchemist, and Alchemy Emperor.

Chapter 612: Void Imperfection Physique

Shi Hao couldn't help but scratch his head after hearing this and said: "I guess so, I didn't think you were an alchemist either. In the Stone Medicine World, there are very few humans and human alchemists are even rarer."

Li Qiye smiled in response. It was indeed true that there were very few humans in this place; this was a world of golems and demons.

Li Qiye handed some refined jades over to Shi Hao and said: "Go buy some more training ingredients, it will be good for you."

Shi Hao shivered while holding the refined jades in his hand. At his age, he still hadn't seen jades of such a high level. This prompted his startling response: "But..."

Li Qiye commanded: "Go. If you don't utilize this time well, then maybe I won't have time to teach you later."

Shi Hao understood that Li Qiye wanted to teach him so he gratefully bowed to him. He put away the refined jades and quickly went to the city to buy more ingredients.

Li Qiye grinned while watching Shi Hao leave. He suddenly remembered training talents back then and showing them a path. For millions of years, Li Qiye had done this many times. Many invincible alchemists and array-masters had come from Li Qiye's tutelage.

Li Qiye went back to his room while Shi Hao went to the city to shop. At this time, Li Qiye had opened thirteen palaces and no longer needed to stay in the Ancient Saint realm. This was his time to reach Heavenly Sovereign.

Everyone knew the importance of this realm; this was the grand path towards the golden throne! It was the realm where cultivators from different rivers all came together to the same ocean. At this level, following the dao of someone before them was no longer relevant. This was the time for cultivators to derive and form their own dao to pave their future path.

However, this was only true for other cultivators. For Li Qiye, this realm was no different from the other ones. With thirteen palaces, supreme profundities and grand dao mysteries were simple in his eyes.

The crux of this realm was to communicate with the grand dao and derive their mysteriousness. When Li Qiye's thirteen palaces emerged with an explosion, layers of divine rings appeared around his body.

For others, each time they derived a dao, it meant the appearance of one divine ring. The more they could derive, the more divine rings they would have which would further increase their cultivation.

However, derivations of the dao and understanding its heavenly mysticisms was not difficult to Li Qiye. He was above the heavens

with his palaces, so which heavenly grand dao could challenge him?

Because of this, with a single glance, he could see through all mysteries of any dao. As he carefully focused his mind and saw through the dao, divine rings pulsed around his body.

Anyone would be shocked at this scene since countless cultivators required many years just to understand one grand dao. Even geniuses were not exempt from this rule. But now, Li Qiye was comprehending grand dao as easily as flipping his own palm while divine rings continued to stretch around his body.

How could others not be moved by this speed of comprehension? Even the most supreme geniuses couldn't exceed Li Qiye. However, this was understandable because the thirteen palaces rendered everything trivial.

He channeled a cycle of release and recalling blood energy for a while before putting away his palaces. His Life Wheel then began to create a new Inner Physique.

At this moment, Li Qiye's chest contained two Inner Physiques; one was the Hell Suppressing Inner Physique and the other was the Soaring Inner Physique. Both of them were at minor completion.

In his chest, the Hell Suppressing Inner Physique was as heavy as a mountain and as dark as night; it sat there imposingly as if nothing in this world could move it. Meanwhile, the Soaring Inner Physique emitted a pulsing immortal ray like an undulating ripple

on the water's surface. Each time this Inner Physique moved, time itself was affected.

Li Qiye was not in a hurry to push these minor physiques into grand completion because this was not an easy feat. It required the empowerment of a huge amount of blood energy as well as a great cultivation. Otherwise, those who rushed for them would die from the physique tribulation.

Normally, grand completion Immortal Physique users were all Virtuous Paragons. It would be impossible without this realm's power backing them to surpass the tribulation.

Because of this, many geniuses with incredible natural physiques, such as intrinsic Saint Physiques, were able to cultivate an Immortal Physique extremely quickly. At a young age, they were able to reach a grand completion Saint Physique only to die in the end from the tribulation. The reason was very simple; although they cultivated their physique very quickly, their cultivation couldn't catch up.

At this moment, Li Qiye was creating the third Inner Physique in his chest. With the experience from creating a second one, he was very familiar with adding one more.

This third one already had an initial form created. It emitted an extremely pure light without any stains and mundane flaws. It was transcending as if someone had grown a pair of wings to become an immortal.

Anyone who saw this holy light would have all of their impure thoughts erased. Nothing in this world could taint this light.

Void Imperfection Physique — one of the twelve Immortal Physiques! In the Physique Scripture, the Void Imperfection and Soaring Physiques had the same origin; both were born from the word “Pure”, the purest of pure.

Because they shared the same origin, Li Qiye was able to cultivate the Void Imperfection Physique very quickly and easily.

This extremely pure physique was untouched by myriad dao while myriad laws avoided it. It could be said that, in this world, very few merit laws could hurt this physique.

Prior to this, Li Qiye had already cultivated the Hell Suppressing and Soaring Physiques, allowing his body to become the most terrifying of weapons. Just imagine, when he successfully cultivates the Void Imperfection Physique as well, how formidable would his power be?

With a swing of his hand, three Immortal Physiques would activate all at once with devastating potency. If the opponents counterattacked with a divine saber technique, it would be useless against the untouchable Void Imperfection Physique. The shockwave of the saber wouldn't be able to get close!

If the saber technique and merit laws became useless, then even the strongest cultivator's blade slash would lose the majority of its might. Li Qiye would then unleash an extremely fast and heavy

punch to destroy the divine saber and slay his foe.

Defenses were also useless against Li Qiye's three physiques since the most fortified merit law would become useless against the Void Imperfection. Therefore, Li Qiye could swiftly rush through all defenses and use his limitless momentum to kill his cowering enemies in an instant.

The Void Imperfection Physique was a good addition to the Hell Suppressing and Soaring Physiques. He would be able to avoid all merit laws and bypass all defenses and offenses, allowing the destructive power of the other two physiques to reach their maximum potential.

When facing Li Qiye's attacks, any powerful enemy would immediately activate their strongest barrier. However, what if this barrier was useless against Li Qiye? The unsuspecting enemy would then suffer the impact from the physical physiques and suffer terrible consequences!

For all of the reasons above, Li Qiye chose the Void Imperfection Physique after much deliberation to create a perfect system.

After recovering for a period of time, his wounds had nearly healed completely. Only a bit more time was required before he would be able to reach his former state. Meanwhile, he was also teaching Shi Hao how to refine pills. The boy was very hard working and didn't dare to make mistakes during Li Qiye's guidance.

Li Qiye's alchemy dao was peerless, so with only a little bit of teaching, Shi Hao already gained enough for a lifetime. With the combination of Li Qiye's teaching and his own effort, Shi Hao's pill refinement ability soared forward.

Li Qiye was very satisfied with Shi Hao's progress. He was a firm believer of effort being able to make up for insufficient talent; a lazy person would be worthless even if he was the most talented genius in the world.

Time quickly passed. Half a year went by before anyone knew it. It was also time for Shi Hao to harvest his Jadeblood Bamboo stalks.

On this day, he was digging away across the mountain and was jubilated at the sight of his bag full of stalks.

This was the best harvest he ever had since he became a county envoy. In just a short half a year, seventy percent of the bamboo transformed three times, ten percent transformed four times, and the remaining twenty percent transformed twice. This truly astounded him! In fact, even he wouldn't have believed it if he didn't dig them up with his own hands. It was virtually impossible for them to transform four times in just half a year since normally, it would require at least five to ten years!

Four transformation Jadeblood Bamboo stalks were worth a lot of money! It was something he never dared to imagine before. He would have been satisfied with two transformation stalks since it was enough for him to gain some merits. Now, his contribution would skyrocket after this new development.

He rejoiced at the fact that just a few more batches of stalks would make it easy for him to enter the county's government.

Shi Hao gathered all of the stalks then asked Li Qiye: "Brother Li, I am about to go turn in the stalks in the city. Do you want to come along?"

Li Qiye thought about it and coincidentally, he had nothing else to do so he nodded and said: "Very well, I want to take a stroll anyway. I'm about to rust from staying in the house all day."

Before leaving, Li Qiye specifically told Shi Hao: "Never tell a third person about the alchemy formula and refinement method, not even those you are close to. Otherwise, it might get you killed."

Chapter 613: Golem Race

Since Shi Hao was an honest man, Li Qiye was worried that he might accidentally tell the truth, so Li Qiye especially warned him.

Shi Hao answered: “Don’t worry, Brother Li. I am an alchemist that had been accepted through an official process. I will use a True Fate Oath to never tell anyone about the formula or the refinement process.”

With that, he solemnly vowed using his True Fate. He was a true alchemist who had gone through the official qualification procedure and not a haphazard one. He clearly knew the laws of alchemists, such as not passing on formulas to other parties.

The Jadeblood Mountain was not that far from the Stonetreading County, so Shi Hao walked down. He also wanted to let Li Qiye take a look at the scenery of the town.

The Stonetreading County was not a big one in the country, but it was not very remote and rather prosperous.

On a big street, one could see stones rolling and golems of all shapes and sizes. Some stones only started to roll; the majority of them came down from the mountain for the first time and watched the world with curiosity and bemusement.

This was the Stone Medicine World, the world of golems and the demon race, so pedestrians were not surprised at all to see new golems since it was a common sight.

Outside of new stones that had only recently learned how to roll, there were all shapes and types of golems. The best ones were in the shape of humans while the worst had a human head with animal bodies made out of stones. The ones who didn't progress very far were just stone animals.

Those who had part of their bodies made out of flesh and blood were powerful golems or were mixed-race offspring. Those who were completely made of flesh and blood were even rarer, and they were definitely offspring from powerful bloodlines.

In other places, golems were considered part of the demon race, but the golems themselves did not embrace this classification.

In fact, this had some logic to it because the golems naturally had life. These were stones that finally gained intelligence and achieved the dao after millions of years. In this race, the majority of them were just little pebbles that suddenly were able to sense the heaven and earth and gained their own source of life to walk in this world.

It was a common occurrence for random stones to suddenly feel the world and gain life. Of course, some golems required a long time to gain a higher degree of intelligence to the point where they transformed to have flesh and blood — a sign of their strength. There were three different types of golems: celestials, progenies, and mixed-bloods.

In the golem race, celestials were those that were pure golems

and gained life from sensing the world then continuously transformed and increased in strength. These were the first generation of golems.

Progenies consisted of the offsprings from the first generation. When a golem reached a particular power level to have flesh and blood, they were able to reproduce. The first generation needed to reach a particular level to have the physical requirement needed for having offspring.

Progenies were usually born with flesh and blood and also inherited the golem race's powerful strength. They normally were considered nobles and came from great clans or great lineages. Their ancestors were all powerful existences.

Mixed-blood were the product of golems taking a shortcut to reproduce. When golems reached a certain level of strength, they were able to come together with a human or someone from a different race that was capable of reproduction. Of course, the most ideal were humans. Their offspring were called mixed-blood. Mixed-bloods had flesh and blood, but they lost the natural advantages of golems, such as their innate strength.

All three types had their own advantages and disadvantages, but the most advantageous were still second generation progenies. Celestials required a long time to sense the world and transform. There was a chance that they might die before reaching a flesh and blood form.

Because they could sense the heaven and earth, they were very close to its energy. However, this was offset due to their stone

bodies; because there are no meridians, their merit laws were both limited and restricted to refining worldly energy for cultivation.

Due to this, it was a long and arduous process from when a celestial was born until that reached a powerful stage.

Progenies were the nobles among celestials, and their ancestors were already extremely powerful existences. The moment they were born, they already possessed a blood and flesh body for the most part. Moreover, they were still golem and had innate spiritual power with superb talents. They also retained natural advantages of golems, such as a strong body.

However, there was one weakness — atavism. If the offspring was not stronger than their ancestor, then atavism will occur and their natural advantages will weaken. If these progenies continued to grow weaker, then ultimately, they would cease the transformation process and revert into a stone.

Making mixed-bloods was the shortcut for reproduction, but these offspring lost the natural advantages of the golem race, and their bodies were quite weak in comparison. However, if they had a human bloodline, then their resonation with spirit energy as well as intelligence would be quite high.

All three types had their trade-offs, and no one dared to say which was the most ideal. However, it was undeniable that progenies held the greatest advantages within the golem race. The shortcoming was that these progenies required an extremely powerful ancestor of at least the Virtuous Paragon level. Therefore, among the three types of golems, progenies had the

highest starting point but also the most stringent requirement. It made sense for them to become the nobles of the golem race.

As they walked along the big road towards the Stonetreading County, most of the pedestrians were mortal golems and some were cultivators. Among the golems, those who had life but haven't started to cultivate were called mortals. There was another type that consisted of descendants of previous great clans, but they stopped cultivating so they became mortals.

Outside of golems, there were demons as well. The Giant Bamboo Country was a demonic country, but very few demonic cultivators were walking on the streets full of golems. Only mortal demons were walking around in all shapes and forms; some had a bird head and a human body, others had a human head and a snake body, and some maintained their beastly appearance.

The starting point of demons was different from golems. The first step for golems was sensing the heaven and earth, but it was different for demons. Their roots date back to the ancient times.

Some said that demons were the oldest race in the Nine Worlds. This claim requires further deliberation and research, but the demon race was indeed very archaic.

As long as the world continued to exist, so would the demon race. The flowers and grasses, the flying birds and swimming fishes, the tall mountains and flowing rivers... All could give birth to the demon race.

A stone could give birth to either a demonic stone or a spirit stone that would be different from the rest of the golem race.

Demons were basked in the essence of the world. While enduring countless years, they eventually obtained intelligence and understood the heavens to finally communicate with the grand dao.

Golems were born by being able to sense the heaven and earth, and demons were born thanks to the incubation of worldly energy or from powerful cultivators' dao preaching and protection.

Due to their different origins, it made sense why the golems refused to be classified as part of the demon race for billions of years. The demons themselves didn't consider golems as part of their group.

At this time, Li Qiye and Shi Hao finally entered the Stonetreading County. This particular town was very crowded and was bustling with people coming and going. Some street hawkers were yelling to attract customers. Some mortals were going shopping with many cultivators walking among them. Weaker cultivators walked on the roads while stronger ones flew in the sky or rode the path underground.

The Stone Medicine World had existed for countless years as demons and golems took root in this place. Stonetreading was not a large county, but it still had several tens of thousands of mortal demons and golems living here.

In this lively city, meeting a human or a demon or golem in full human form that had full flesh and blood bodies was very difficult since very few experts walked by this place. In a bigger location, such as the Giant Bamboo's capital, one could see demons and golems in complete humanoid form.

Because of this, a regular human like Li Qiye appearing in the Stonetreading County attracted a lot of attention. Someone with a human head like Shi Hao was already quite rare, not to mention a human like his companion.

Many mortals and cultivators pointed at them as they gazed with curiosity. One mortal asked: "Is that a golem noble or a demonic expert? Could it be a human?"

One cultivator took a look and answered: "He's surely a human. His blood energy is not showing up and is without any aura; it seems that his cultivation is not strong at all. Having a humanoid form without a strong cultivation would surely make him a human and not a golem noble or demonic master."

Chapter 614: Crimsonwolf Grass

“Wow, there is a human here at the Stonetreading County!” The crowd looked at Li Qiye as if he was an exotic beast. This scene continued throughout Li Qiye’s walk with many passersby staring at him.

Shi Hao was quite embarrassed at being the center of attention of this many gazes, so he told Li Qiye: “Brother Li, don’t mind it, very few humans ever come here.”

Li Qiye only chuckled in response. He had experienced numerous adventures so such a matter was not worth his concern. He felt that this was very normal; this was the world of golems and demons, so humans were quite a rare sight. They were considered exotic creatures since rare things were considered precious. Meeting a human in this county was surely an uncommon event.

Shi Hao led him to the county’s government office. As the envoy and an alchemist, he still had some status in this place. They went all the way to the center of the hall since he wanted to meet the county lord to turn in the bamboo stalks.

At the center, there were also many other envoys who were in a line, waiting to turn in the spirit medicines they had been cultivating. Shi Hao was afraid that Li Qiye would become impatient from waiting, so he spoke: “How about Brother Li take a walk around the government hall? I’m afraid it will be a while before I can finish turning in the medicines.”

Li Qiye smiled and nodded his head as he began to walk around the office. Although the county was quite small in size, there were many cultivators in this humble office. Li Qiye's stroll didn't last too long; he leisurely walked into a medicinal garden.

It was a decent sized garden with many soulgrasses, spirit medicines, and lingzhi. Their ages spanned from several decades to a century; the oldest one being several thousand years old.

Such a medicinal garden was not enough to enter Li Qiye's eyes, but it was not a bad stash for a small land like the Stonetreading County. As he walked deeper into the fresh garden, he suddenly heard a voice.

“Oh my Crimsonwolf Grass, what do I have to do to get you to transform one more time? I've waited for you for centuries and done everything I could already. You are going to wither at this rate...”

Li Qiye came closer and saw a jar with a soulgrass inside. It was crimson red with the shape of a wolf's tail. It emitted six different bright colors in a pulsing cycle as if it could go out at any moment. This was a sign that the life of this soulgrass was dwindling and on the verge of death.

An old man stood before this soulgrass. He had normal features with white hair; only his nose was a bit strange. With a quick glance, Li Qiye knew that he was part of the demon race — a bulbul bird with a decent cultivation.

The old man's eyes narrowed and shot out a glint the moment Li Qiye got closer. His attitude was a bit fierce as he said: "Kid, who are you?"

This was understandable since Li Qiye was a stranger who suddenly ran into his medicinal garden. It would be strange if he was acting friendly.

Li Qiye answered with a smile: "I came with Shi Hao to turn in some Jadeblood Bamboo stalks. I got bored so I was taking a look around."

The old man relaxed after hearing this and smiled back at him: "Oh, so a friend of Little Shi Hao."

Li Qiye looked at the fiery soulgrass in front of him and casually asked: "So Grandpa knows Brother Shi Hao?"

The old man replied: "Little Shi Hao has okay talents for alchemy, but he is quite hardworking. It is a shame that I am too old and already have disciples as old as him. Otherwise, I might have taken him in as well."

At this point, the old man looked at Li Qiye and asked: "You are a human? That is quite a rare sight in the Stone Medicine World, let alone this county. Where are you from?"

Li Qiye kept on looking at the soulgrass while answering: "I am only a vagrant cultivator traveling everywhere and coincidentally

arrived in this region.”

The old man nodded approvingly and said: “It is good for young people to travel. Plus, your human race is very rare in this world, so if you travel a lot, maybe you will meet some noble ladies from the golem race. You should know that humans are very popular here, so you could become the son-in-law of some noble clan, making your status soar!”

The old man was very talkative. He could happily chat it up even though the two were strangers.

Li Qiye didn’t know whether to laugh or cry after hearing this. However, the old man was right, both male and female humans were very popular in this place, especially to the golem race since humans were the best mates for reproduction.

Therefore, the old man bore no malicious intent when he said this. After all, this was not a bad proposal.

Li Qiye only smiled while shaking his head while saying: “This Crimsonwolf is about to die. If this continues on, I’m afraid it won’t make it for three more months.”

The old man suddenly became unhappy and said with a serious expression: “Child, one can eat indiscriminately but cannot speak indiscriminately.”

He had spent a lot of effort to cultivate a Crimsonwolf Soulgrass

with six transformation that was on the verge of getting the seventh. Now, Li Qiye's unlucky words naturally made him upset.

Li Qiye looked at the old man and said: "I am only speaking the truth. Crimsonwolf is not a bad soulgrass, it's only a bit worse than a Silkworm Dragon Soulgrass. It seems that you have spent a lot of effort taking care of it. If I am not mistaken, after its sixth transformation, it has been stuck like this for a long time. Recently, it was about to transform again but became stuck at this stage."

Li Qiye paused for a moment before continuing on: "You became impatient in the face of this stagnation and fed it more nutrients. My guess is that your fertilizer consisted of Silverwolf's blood mixed with Ash-steel Wood, Holy Ash-radish, and some Sacred Wolf Water."

The old man was startled and took a deep breath after hearing Li Qiye explain his process in such detail: "How did you know?" He was the only one who knew this matter and his fertilizer formula was a secret known only by him, yet Li Qiye was able to state it so smoothly.

Li Qiye answered with a smile: "It's nothing, I can smell the blood so I knew you used Silverwolf's blood, but this blood has to be mixed with Ash-steel Wood and Holy Ash-radish to take effect, and the Sacred Wolf Water is there to increase the potency."

Li Qiye only smiled when he saw the old man be sent into a daze, then he looked back at the Crimsonwolf Soulgrass and lightly said: "It seems that you have laboriously worked on this root so it is

precious to you. One needs to truly put their heart into cultivating it in order to have good soulgrass, so I will give you a solution.”

Li Qiye cleared his throat and said: “Your line of thought was not bad. This would normally work, but that would only be under regular circumstances. I see that the root of this grass is very pale. If I am not mistaken, you dug it out of a wetland, a place that buried many corpses. You moved it to this place and did a good job of caring for it, so why did it stop at six transformations?”

Li Qiye gently went on: “This is because your soil is not suitable. After many years, it finally reached the seventh transformation level, but now, it needs the land where it was born in order to powerfully soar to the next.”

“However, you were impatient and couldn’t wait any longer, thus you chose to use your unique fertilizer formula. Your soulgrass was born in a land of extreme Yin, but your Silverwolf’s blood mix is of the fire affinity. The fertilizer not only failed to help grow the Crimsonwolf Soulgrass to the seventh transformation, it also weakened its medicinal source. At such an important moment, you weakening its medicinal source was the same as taking its life.” Having said all of this, Li Qiye then glanced at the old man who was lost while listening to him.

The old man stood there looking silly since he was completely blown away. Li Qiye could tell his fertilizer and where he obtained the soulgrass with just a quick glance. This ability was too frightening and was indicative of a deep understanding of medicine cultivation. Even an old geezer like him was not a match.

Li Qiye could only smile while shaking his head when he saw the old man standing there in such a state and continued on: “You still have a chance to save it. Neutralize your fertilizer then go back to where you found the grass. Dig out some soil and bring it here, then place it around the soulgrass. Only then will you be able to save it.”

“Really?” The old man finally returned from his shock after slightly shivering.

“Brother Li!” At this time, Shi Hao had finished turning in his stalks and was standing by the door while waving at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gave the old man one last look. He didn’t say anything else before walking away. The old man was frozen and didn’t hear Shi Hao greeting him.

Shi Hao and Li Qiye left the government hall. Along the way, Shi Hao asked: “What were you talking about with the Alchemy Chief?”

Li Qiye looked at him and asked: “Alchemy Chief?”

Shi Hao answered: “That old man earlier. Grandpa Bai is the Alchemy Chief of the Stonetreading County and also the best alchemist here. He had reached the Alchemy Master level a very long time ago. I also heard that he is about to become an Alchemy Grandmaster.”

An alchemist of this level staying at a small place like the Stonetreading County was quite rare; he was worthy of having a higher position.

“It was just some small talk.” Li Qiye said with a smile, but he then noticed Shi Hao’s uncontrollable cheerful expression and asked: “It seems that something good happened to you?”

Chapter 615: Aghast

“The County Lord said that I made a great contribution this time. After two more batches of Jadeblood Bamboo like this, he will recommend me to the prefecture. Even if I can’t become a student for an alchemist below the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch, I will still be able to join under someone else.”

“Just focus on studying alchemy and forget everything else.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “Those alchemists can’t teach you anything. I will be here for some time and will teach you pill refinement; try to learn as much as you can. If you want to go see a bigger world, then the prefecture government is not a bad choice. The Giant Bamboo Country is a country worth staying at.”

“Really?” Shi Hao was taken aback by this suggestion. Although he didn’t know Li Qiye’s alchemy ranking, he understood that Li Qiye’s skill at pill refinement was incredible.

Although they were apprentice and master since Li Qiye taught him, there was no official title. Li Qiye had never promised anything to Shi Hao, but now, Li Qiye himself said that he would teach Shi Hao pill refinement, so the situation had changed.

Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “Don’t worry, I will teach you one or two arts for pill refinement. Even if you can’t study all the different paths of alchemy, it would be enough for you to have a bright future at the Giant Bamboo Country. The only requirement is that you have to work hard; I will not teach someone who wishes to reap without sowing.”

Shi Hao was ecstatic and quickly bowed to say: “Thank you, Brother Li, no, thank you, Master, for teaching me alchemy...”

Li Qiye stopped him and shook his head to say: “I am not a person who accepts disciples so easily. Today, I am teaching you pill refinement because of our fateful meeting. In the future, just call me brother and don’t worry about formalities.”

Shi Hao scratched his head and pondered for a moment before deciding to listen to Li Qiye: “If Brother Li says so, then I’ll do just that.”

They returned to Jadeblood Mountain, and Li Qiye continued to teach Shi Hao while cultivating. He had recovered completely and would have left if it wasn’t for Shi Hao’s alchemy education.

At this time, Li Qiye sealed the room with the pentagate again as he sat in a meditative pose while channeling his merit law and surging Life Wheel. A pearl-like drop of Longevity Blood rolled on a jade plate while his True Fate was up high, turning into different dao foundations.

The thirteen palaces were roaring as he separated each of them. Some contained treasures, some were cultivating spirit medicines, and others were refining Life Treasures...

Inside the master palace, the destiny stone he obtained from the Divine Dragon Mountain back at the Prime Ominous Grave was hovering in the sky. This stone was indeed amazing; it didn’t need Li Qiye’s help since it could refine itself using the fire of life. This

self-refining process allowed it to take the initial form of a huge seal; it was about to become a treasure seal!

Li Qiye didn't interfere with this true fate treasure auto-refining itself and allowed it to do as it pleased.

Meanwhile, in the thirteenth palace, the stone egg took a spot all by itself. The truth was that Li Qiye still hadn't really researched this stone egg he obtained from the Heavenly Corpse Burial Ground.

In fact, this stone egg was unbearably arrogant, even the destiny stone from the Divine Dragon Mountain was not a match for it. It was not until Li Qiye opened the thirteenth palace that the stone egg conceded the palace to the stone and took the thirteenth palace spot all by itself.

Li Qiye was helpless against this arrogant egg. This egg had considered the thirteenth palace as its home, and he couldn't chase it away even if he wanted to.

“Hmzzz!” Li Qiye's True Fate emitted a bright radiance as chapters of universal laws escaped from it. Another identical copy of his True Fate appeared with rotating laws; one could see three souls inside.

Death Soul — this was the thing Li Qiye wanted to cultivate from the Death Scripture taken from the Prime Ominous Grave.

As one of the nine Grand Heavenly Scriptures, it was extremely heaven-defying and terrifying. It had no techniques or merit laws and only allowed Li Qiye to refine his body. This peerless scripture had four different types of cultivation arts: Death Soul, Death Chapter, Death Seal, and Death Record.

The Death Soul was the first thing he chose to cultivate since it could be said that it was crucial to him.

He had completely grasped the mysteries of the Death Scripture, so it was not difficult for him to create the Death Soul.

The Death Soul, at the moment, was copying Li Qiye's three souls inside his True Fate. A person had three souls, and a cultivator's three souls were part of his True Fate.

After successfully creating a Death Soul, one could divide this into three sections, or three souls, then hide them away.

With these three hidden Death Souls, as long as they were not destroyed, the person would be unkillable.

Even if their body was destroyed along with their True Fate, the Death Souls allowed for one to remain alive to rebuild a new True Fate and body.

This was an impossible thing for cultivators. One could rebuild a body, but it was the ultimate end if the True Fate was destroyed as well.

However, the Death Scripture was just that magical. As long as the Death Souls were still there, there was a chance for rebirth even if one's True Fate was destroyed.

Of course, this did not allow for eternal life since it only helped Li Qiye become unkillable.

Cultivators would live until their lifespan was used up; not even the Death Souls could save them from this rule. It only saved cultivators from unexpected death and not from the natural course of life.

Now, Li Qiye was thinking about where to hide his three Death Souls. It didn't matter where he hid them or if he sealed them in different items. As long as those items remained indestructible, then Li Qiye would always have a chance of revival.

He needed to ponder about the locations and the items — three appropriate places or items for him to seal his souls. He must also separate them and do it with the utmost secrecy. This would allow for him to live on until his lifespan runs out.

Once this task was carried out, there would only be two ways for him to die. The first would be if someone managed to find his three Death Souls and destroyed all three, and the second would be to wait until he died from old age!

Thus, Li Qiye was faced with an extremely crucial matter — to find appropriate locations and items to avoid death in the future.

This was no easy task. Only Li Qiye knew that, in the distant future, he would face a terrible situation beyond one's imagination. Before that day comes, he must guarantee that his Death Souls remain untraceable!

Li Qiye was especially cautious about this matter because he understood what he would face in the future. The three locations must be places of utmost secrecy.

He continued to cultivate at Jadeblood Mountain while teaching Shi Hao pill refinement. In the blink of an eye, three more months had passed. Today, an uninvited guest came to Jadeblood Mountain.

“Grandpa Bai!” Shi Hao was surprised to see this guest. In this remote area, an Alchemy Chief like Grandpa Bai was a big character, so his sudden arrival scared the soul out of Shi Hao. He didn't expect to see Grandpa Bai personally walking here since, with just one order, there would be disciples running the errand for him.

Grandpa Bai arrived and ignored Shi Hao's astonishment; he grabbed Shi Hao's hand and asked in a flurry: “Tell me quick, where is your friend?”

Shi Hao was scared out of his wits after seeing Grandpa Bai's tense expression and thought that Li Qiye had caused big trouble. He stuttered and asked: “Grandpa Bai, w-what did Brother Li do?”

Grandpa Bai quickly answered: “Nothing. Take me to him, I need

to consult with him!”

Shi Hao heaved a sigh of relief and said: “Brother Li is inside.”

Shi Hao found it quite odd. Consultation? Grandpa Bai was a famous chief in this area, so why would a big shot like him need to ask Brother Li questions?

“Take me to see him!” Grandpa Bai hurried into the house. It was more accurate to say that he was dragging Shi Hao along instead of being led by him inside. Grandpa Bai was itching to get on with it.

“What’s happening?” Coincidentally, Li Qiye stepped out the moment Grandpa Bai was dragging Shi Hao inside and asked while slightly surprised.

“Brother Li... Grandpa Bai wants to see you.” Shi Hao quickly responded then ran forward and whispered in his ear: “Grandpa Bai is a good person, so if there is anything, you can tell Grandpa Bai.”

Shi Hao was scared by Grandpa Bai’s hasty appearance and thought that Li Qiye had done something wrong.

Grandpa Bai ignored Shi Hao’s whispering and bowed towards Li Qiye: “Our last meeting was too abrupt and this old man had eyes but couldn’t see Mt. Tai. Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Bai Weng, may I know Young Noble’s name?”

“Li Qiye.” Li Qiye looked at the old man and responded leisurely.

Chapter 616: Bai Weng's Recruitment

Shi Hao couldn't help but be startled. Grandpa Bai was a great character in the Stonetreading County; even the County Lord treated him with respect. He had been an envoy for a long time and besides the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch, he had never seen Grandpa Bai treat someone with such politeness.

Bai Weng looked at Li Qiye and rubbed his palms together and asked: "May I ask where you are from and which sect you belong to?"

"I'm only a vagrant cultivator with erratic travels." Li Qiye calmly said: "If Grandpa Bai has anything in mind, please say it."

Grandpa Bai quickly waved his hands in response: "Nothing, it's nothing like that at all. Young Noble Li is too courteous, you can just call me Bai Weng. I can't handle being called Grandpa Bai by Young Noble Li."

Shi Hao jumped out of his skin when he saw Bai Weng's attitude and couldn't believe his own ears at such humility.

Li Qiye didn't want to waste time and directly said: "Say your piece."

Bai Weng rubbed his hands again awkwardly and forced a smile to say: "It was thanks to Young Noble's guidance, or else all of my efforts would have been wasted. Really, thank you, your words woke me up from being lost. My Crimsonwolf grass would have

been ruined.

“After receiving your pointers, I went to the wetland and put soil from there around the grass. Just like you said, the grass successfully transformed for the seventh time. I can’t express my gratitude enough. Your great knowledge puts this old man to shame.”

Initially, after receiving Li Qiye’s pointers, Bai Weng was very doubtful. However, seeing the grass that was on the verge of death, he had no choice but to take a risk and use Li Qiye’s method.

A miracle happened after he took some soil from the wetland and put it around the grass. Not long after, the grass’ life recovered and in the following days, it successfully transformed.

How could Bai Weng not be shocked? He understood immediately that he had met a wise master. With just a glance, Li Qiye was able to analyze his unique fertilizer, and he even knew where he obtained the grass from. With a casual remark, Li Qiye managed to not only save the grass, he also helped it transform successfully.

Such familiarity with alchemy principles and cultivation meant that he was a wondrous alchemist, one that was far greater than Bai Weng. The alchemy dao didn’t only consist of pill refinement, plant cultivation was another aspect.

Bai Weng knew that he had met a great alchemy genius so he quickly reacted and let go of all his business to run to Jadeblood

Mountain to find Li Qiye. Luckily for him, Li Qiye still hadn't left.

Li Qiye only nodded his head at the influx of praises from Bai Weng and waited to hear more.

Bai Weng cleared his throat and forced a smile again before speaking: "Young Noble Li, there is one matter that might interest you."

Li Qiye looked at him and waited for him to say more.

Bai Weng didn't dare to slow down after seeing Li Qiye's waiting appearance and said: "Our lord adores talent. Recently, Her Majesty started looking for talented young alchemists. I wonder if Young Noble is interested?"

"Looking for alchemists?" Li Qiye's eyes narrowed as he spoke: "To be an alchemist for Giant Bamboo?"

"As long as Young Noble's alchemy skill is capable, maybe you will become the Alchemy Chief of the entire country!" Bai Weng quickly added.

Shi Hao was dumbstruck after hearing Bai Weng. Being the Alchemy Chief of an entire country was very amazing; it was a high ranked position that allowed one to be an unreachable existence. Shi Hao never even dared to dream about it, so how could he not be stunned upon hearing Bai Weng's attempt at recruitment?

“Giant Bamboo Country...” Li Qiye murmured as a figure as gentle as water uncontrollably appeared in Li Qiye’s mind.

Bai Weng quickly added: “Young Noble Li, although our Giant Bamboo is not comparable to imperial lineages, we are a big country that has stood strong in the Alchemy Realm for millions of years. If you stay here, I’m sure your future will be golden.”

Li Qiye’s mind returned to the present. He laughed after hearing Bai Weng. He nodded his head and said: “The capital of the Giant Bamboo Country is indeed a place worth remembering; I also want to go there once.”

He had thought about visiting the memorable Giant Bamboo’s capital after arriving at the Stone Medicine World. After many years, his memories of the place were still there and caused him to become emotional.

Bai Weng quickly answered: “I will go arrange for it immediately and recommend Young Noble to Her Highness!”

Li Qiye only chuckled. He would go to the capital not for a promising future or to see the king, but for a simple sightseeing trip. If he really wanted to go, then even the heavily guarded capital wouldn’t be able to stop his advance.

Bai Weng assumed that Li Qiye wanted to be the national Alchemist Chief so he quickly said: “Could Young Noble try to refine one cauldron?”

Li Qiye looked at him and said: “You want me to refine a batch right now?”

Bai Weng smiled awkwardly and said: “This old man isn’t implicating anything and trusts your abilities. However, I need to recommend you to the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch and my words alone are not enough. This needs to be verified by the monarch in order for it to go smoothly.”

Li Qiye replied with a smile: “I don’t need to prove anything, this is no big deal to me.”

Bai Weng was a little helpless in the face of this and said: “Young Noble Li... umm...” He knew that Li Qiye was an amazing alchemist, but he needed proof if he was going to recommend Li Qiye to the Demon Monarch. He wouldn’t let such a rare, young alchemist slip from him.

Although this left him in a sticky situation, he was not angry or annoyed at all. As an alchemist, he knew that it was normal for a talented alchemist to be arrogant; this type of person was always popular everywhere.

He responded: “Young Noble Li, this old man trusts your skills one hundred percent, but... if I don’t have anything as proof, then it would be very hard to recommend you to Her Majesty.”

“Brother Li, this is a rare opportunity.” Shi Hao also calmed down and whispered to Li Qiye: “The Ancient Pine Demon

Monarch is one of the eighteen monarchs of our Giant Bamboo and is held in high esteem in Her Majesty's eyes. With his recommendation, you will surely become a court alchemist."

Li Qiye only chuckled since he wasn't interested in becoming a court alchemist or anything else for that matter. He stared at Bai Weng then back at Shi Hao and smilingly said: "I appreciate Grandpa's enthusiasm, and out of consideration for Shi Hao, I will refine something once for you to see. But right now, I don't have suitable alchemy ingredients."

Li Qiye's proud attitude caused Shi Hao's heart to thump, but to his bewilderment, Bai Weng was not angry at all. After hearing about his lack of ingredients, Bai Weng took a whole bunch out and said: "I have some right here. I coincidentally obtained a batch of materials for a five transformations fate pill; all the things you need are here."

Li Qiye looked at the old man and said: "It seems that you have come prepared."

Bai Weng let out a wry laugh. He spent a lot of time before managing to gather enough ingredients for a five transformations fate pill. Today, he brought them here just to test Li Qiye's abilities.

Fate pills were the hardest to refine for alchemists, and a five transformations pill could show their ability. In order to refine a pill to this level, the pill would need fifty percent purity.

This type of pill was meant for Ancient Saints. There needs to be sufficient five transformations ingredients that could turn into a fate pill successfully in order for it to be suitable for Ancient Saints.

However, this was easier said than done. It was quite a challenge for the majority of alchemists. Because of this, a five transformations fate pill was a crossroads and challenge for alchemists. If successful, then one would be considered an Alchemy Grandmaster. If the quality was good, then maybe that person would qualify to be a Profound Alchemist.

While Bai Weng took out all the ingredients, Li Qiye also took out his Myriad Heavenly Cauldron. At this time, the cauldron's shape had changed. Prior to this, it was a frog, but now, it appeared to be very ordinary looking.

Back at the lost alchemy garden of the immortals in the rich field, the cauldron had undergone a transformation. It should have done so far in the past since it had devoured countless heavenly medicines and immortal grasses throughout the years. The even more incredible part was that it drank some Myriad Star Water. It had been waiting for the right time, but it had never come. It wasn't until it stayed at the lost garden that it seized the chance. After the successful transformation, it turned back into a primal shape and appeared to be no different from an ordinary cauldron.

The truth was that it was the number one Heavenly Cauldron throughout the ages and was peerless. Its usage was not limited to refining pills, it could also defy the heavens by changing fate itself.

A huge cauldron appeared before Shi Hao and Bai Weng, much to their astonishment due to its ordinary looks. Bai Weng assumed that since Li Qiye had great alchemy skills, he would have a good Heavenly Cauldron as well, but this huge cauldron was very ordinary.

Bai Weng spoke at this time: “We should leave for a bit.” As an alchemist who had studied the dao of alchemy for a thousand years, he knew the rules of alchemists. Others should leave when an alchemist was about to refine medicine.

“No need.” Li Qiye shook his head and said: “This will be a piece of cake. There is no need to leave, I’ll be done in a second.”

Chapter 617: Ancient Pine Demon Monarch

Having heard this, both Bai Weng and Shi Hao were stunned. Bai Weng felt that Li Qiye was boasting too much. This was a five transformations fate pill; he himself would need to go all out with caution during the process.

It was needless to say for Shi Hao; such a pill was far beyond his reach. At this moment, there was no way he could refine such a pill.

However, amidst their daze, Li Qiye pressed one hand onto the cauldron.

“Pop!” The cauldron’s flame appeared as Li Qiye threw all the ingredients inside.

“Pa, pa, pa!” The popping sounds as if someone was frying soybeans appeared. In just a second, a medicinal fragrance came about.

“Collect!” At this moment, the cauldron opened as the flame disappeared. A five transformations fate pill was refined in an instant.

Bai Weng was completely terrified while Shi Hao was rendered speechless. Both of them stood there silly with their mouths wide open and were unable to calm down for a long time.

Bai Weng's breath was taken away by this scene. He had become an alchemist for a long time but had never seen this style of pill refinement. How could it be possible for one to refine pills as easily as frying beans? He had never heard of something even remotely similar and couldn't see Li Qiye's pill refinement method when he did it so quickly.

Shi Hao, on the other hand, couldn't gauge anything since he was less knowledgeable than Bai Weng, so he just stood there silly.

Li Qiye handed a box to Bai Weng and said: "Okay, here is the proof that you need. Take it."

For Li Qiye, this kind of proof or becoming the national Alchemy Chief were not worth thinking about. He only wanted to go take a look at the capital as well as do a favor by paving the way for Shi Hao, allowing him to have a future position in the Giant Bamboo Country.

Bai Weng shook his body to calm down and opened the box to look at the five transformations fate pill. His scream quickly ensued.

"This... this... this is seventy percent purity! How... can this be!?" His knees met the ground as he was scared out of his mind.

Shi Hao was similarly awestruck. Despite being a Junior Alchemist, he still understood the significance behind a seventy percent purity for a five transformations fate pill.

“It is only like that because I wasn’t in the mood. If I was more serious, then eighty percent wouldn’t have been a problem.” Li Qiye leisurely commented.

Bai Weng suddenly felt the urge to kneel down and hit his head on the ground. Seventy percent purity for a five transformations pill was enough to scare all alchemists to death, not to mention the speed and ease that Li Qiye had demonstrated, as if he was just frying beans. All the genius alchemists, Alchemy Saints, and Legendary Alchemists were not enough to reach the apex if this was the norm.

The ingredients for this fate pill had only transformed five times so their potency was limited. It was already considered great to be able to refine a pill with fifty percent purity, and only Alchemy Saints and Legendary Alchemists were able to reach sixty percent.

But now, Li Qiye easily refined one with seventy percent, so his skill should be around the peak of Legendary Alchemists. However, he nonchalantly stated that it was only because he wasn’t in the mood or else even eighty percent would be possible. Any alchemist would have a heart attack upon hearing this.

If anyone else said this, Bai Weng would think that the person didn’t know his own capabilities, but he was completely convinced at this moment. With his body kneeling on the ground, he would believe anything Li Qiye said even if the words were even more outrageous.

“Are you... an Alchemy Emperor?” Bai Weng asked with a blank gaze.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't answer.

Shi Hao joined Bai Weng on the ground by squatting straight down. He didn't know how to describe his feelings at the moment.

Alchemy Emperor was the highest title as well as the greatest achievement for an alchemist. Although an Alchemy Emperor was not as powerful as an Immortal Emperor, they were highly respected by all in the Nine Worlds.

An even more illustrious title was Alchemy God. However, only one person across the eons was worthy of this title — the Alchemy God himself!

The Stonetreading County was a tiny county in the Refreshing Prefecture, a sizable prefecture in the Giant Bamboo Country.

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was the overseer of this prefecture. He was one of the eighteen demon monarchs beneath Madam Zi Yan, the Giant Bamboo Overlord.

Just like his name, the monarch was a pine tree who succeeded in the dao. Although he was not the strongest out of the eighteen, he was the oldest one among the group.

As the ruler of a big prefecture, he was very busy, especially with

the recent task of finding young alchemists for the Demon King.

He had found some young alchemists but was not satisfied with them. Although their innate talents were okay, their current skills were simply too shallow.

While the monarch was deep in work, Bai Weng from the Stonetreading County tried to rush into his office despite being stopped outside.

“Bai Weng, can’t you wait a bit before reporting?” The monarch’s brows furrowed after seeing Bai Weng’s intrusion and said: “Wait until I’m done with work, then you can report what you have discovered.”

He was busy deciding between these young alchemists and was already in a foul mood, so Bai Weng’s intrusion only made it worse.

If it was anyone else, the monarch would have kicked them out already. However, Bai Weng was an experienced alchemist and was almost at the Grandmaster level. In the future, he could join the court any time as an alchemist, so the monarch viewed him in high regard.

“Demon Monarch, nothing is more important than this!” Bai Weng stated: “I will introduce an alchemist to you, a supreme and matchless alchemist!”

The monarch shook his head in response: “From your Stonetreading County? Outside of you, that county still has more alchemists? Although your disciples aren’t bad, the matter this time is very important; those disciples won’t do.”

“No, no, Demon Monarch misunderstood my intent.” Bai Weng quickly replied: “I am not recommending my own disciples. Moreover, my own skills are nothing before the Young Noble I am about to recommend, I’m not even worthy to hold his shoes!”

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was startled after hearing this. Although Bai Weng had yet to become a Grandmaster, he was already a top Alchemy Master. His self-deprecating praise to this person caught the demon monarch by surprise.

The monarch shook his head and said: “Are you joking right now? In the contemporary times, if any young person was worthy of being called supreme and matchless, then they would be the four alchemy prodigies. No one in the younger generation is comparable to those four.”

Bai Weng quickly said: “No, Demon Monarch, the four alchemy prodigies are nothing compared to Young Noble Li!”

The monarch’s expression became serious. While squinting his eyes, he deepened his tone: “Bai Weng, you can’t joke around like that. As the saying goes, one can eat indiscriminately but cannot speak indiscriminately. If others hear what you said just now, it would cause trouble for us. You should know how strong the backings of the four prodigies are.”

The four alchemy prodigies were renowned across the Stone Medicine World. Many people believed that if a new Alchemy Emperor were to appear, then it would be one of these four prodigies.

“Demon Monarch, I know just how much weight my words carried just now.” Bai Weng also became serious and answered: “But Young Noble Li, who I am recommending, is worthy for our Giant Bamboo to do everything to keep him here regardless of the price, which is why I spent all night running here. If we miss this chance, then we won’t be able to recruit another peerless alchemy genius.”

After seeing Bai Weng’s austere appearance, the monarch became more solemn as well: “Tell me why this alchemy genius is so amazing.”

As the monarch, he knew that characters like Bai Weng were not the frivolous type and wouldn’t joke around.

Bai Weng carefully handed the five transformations fate pill that Li Qiye concocted over to the monarch.

After seeing this fate pill, the monarch stood straight up from his seat and exclaimed: “Seventy percent purity! How... is this possible?!”

“Nothing is impossible for Young Noble Li.” Bai Weng said in the most earnest manner: “You would be stunned if you saw him

refine pills in person.” Having said that, Bai Weng described Li Qiye’s alchemy process.

The monarch was shocked as he listened, standing there like a statue. After a while, the monarch fell to his seat then looked up at Bai Wang and uttered: “This can’t be real!”

Bai Weng replied solemnly: “This is one hundred percent real. This old man guarantees this with my life.” Here, his tone became more urgent: “This is a once-in-ten-thousand-years opportunity for the Giant Bamboo Country. Her Majesty wants more talents, right? We need a young alchemist to join the Alchemy Conference, right? If Young Noble Li agrees to represent us, then we’ll take first place for sure!”

The monarch calmed down and quickly asked: “This Young Noble Li, where is he from and which sect does he belong to?”

He was very emotional at the moment. If such a young alchemist had such capabilities, then he would surely be the Alchemy Emperor in the future.

Bai Weng answered: “Young Noble Li is a human, a vagrant cultivator that doesn’t belong to any sect.”

The monarch couldn’t help but ponder after hearing this answer: “How could that be? As such a powerful alchemist, if he is not already an Alchemy Emperor, then he would be a Legendary Alchemist. It is one thing to be unknown, but not having any sect trying to recruit him? That is abnormal.”

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch's skepticism made a lot of sense. Alchemists have always been popular in the Stone Medicine World, and the high-ranking ones were always in demand and were invited by all the sects.

Chapter 618: Personally Visiting The Humble Abode

Alchemists were able to cultivate materials and craft fate pills, longevity medicines, physique pastes, and various ointments. In short, things that any sect would always need, and many of these items were always in short supply.

Thus, one could imagine just how popular alchemists were. This was the case for the other worlds as well since there were less alchemists in those places and their system had yet to be as flourished and developed.

Because of this, the status of alchemists in the Stone Medicine World was much higher than that in the other worlds. Moreover, this world also produced more Alchemy Emperors.

“There are many strange things in this world.” Regarding the monarch’s worries, Bai Weng had such a conjecture: “Extraordinary people have their own train of thought; Young Noble Li’s skill is enough to sweep over this world. Perhaps he considers power and fame to be useless since he can obtain whatever he wants already. With a swing of his hand, countless people would want to offer him gifts and treasures. Maybe because of this, he got tired of rowdy places.”

The Demon Monarch became worried from this: “If this was the case, then what do we have to hold him down? If he has such abilities, then not mentioning the great powers, even imperial lineages would want him as well. The Alchemy Kingdom would also be tempted. We don’t have any advantage compared to those

monsters.”

Bai Weng became spirited when this issue was brought up: “We can’t guess how these extraordinary people think. Back in the county, there is an envoy named Shi Hao. This kid is very honest and hardworking and has always wanted to become a powerful alchemist. I think Young Noble Li is staying here because he wants to teach this boy. I heard Shi Hao say that Young Noble Li was teaching him pill refinement. Even if the young noble doesn’t want to take him as a disciple, he is still training the boy.”

Bai Weng paused for a bit and continued: “I have asked Young Noble Li before. He wants to take a trip to the capital once. We can just introduce him to Her Majesty at that time. Whether this endeavor is successful or not, it’ll be up to Her Majesty.”

“Very well, how can we let go of such a powerful alchemist?” The demon monarch solemnly said: “I’ll personally go and pay my respects to him!”

Initially, Bai Weng wanted to recommend a young alchemist to Her Majesty, but he was astonished after seeing Li Qiye’s abilities. He knew that Li Qiye had the qualifications to act arrogantly, and whether he would stay at the Giant Bamboo Country to be an alchemist was dependent on his whims!

Such a great alchemist would have sects scrambling for his attention, so Bai Weng became even more determined to persuade the demon monarch so that he would ask Her Majesty to recruit a supreme alchemist like Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye continued his normal and relaxing life back at Jadeblood Mountain. He wanted to stay at the Giant Bamboo Country for a while as well as to take a look at the capital and the palace.

Under Li Qiye's guidance, Shi Hao mustered all of his effort into pill refinement. Although he was a simple fellow, he still knew that this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; he wouldn't be able to find another such wise teacher once Li Qiye leaves. As Li Qiye repeatedly demonstrated the methods, Shi Hao didn't dare to miss a single detail.

Bai Weng returned the next day with a companion.

Bai Weng and the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch both came to Jadeblood Mountain and noticed that the vegetation here along the mountains were full of life. The Jadeblood Bamboo planted here happily swayed back and forth as if they had come to life.

This was not strange at all. The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was initially a pine tree, so he was very close with the flora. His arrival was naturally sensed by the vegetation on the mountain.

Shi Hao was frightened at the monarch's arrival. He had been an envoy for a long time but had only seen the monarch once. But now, the monarch was actually here at Jadeblood Mountain — this was something Shi Hao wouldn't have dreamt of before.

“You must be County Envoy Shi Hao?” The monarch revealed a

friendly smile to Shi Hao.

The monarch ruled an entire prefecture that consisted of countless envoys, so his personal greeting left Shi Hao aghast.

Shi Hao eventually calmed down and quickly answered: “My lord, that is me.”

The demon monarch didn’t act condescendingly at all as he politely said: “We are here to visit Young Noble Li.”

Shi Hao didn’t dare to waste time and quickly led the two of them to see Li Qiye.

Inside the room, Li Qiye was still nonchalant after seeing a big shot like the demon monarch. To him, the monarch was not a big shot at all since he had seen too many true grand characters.

“Young Noble Li’s visit to the Giant Bamboo Country is our honor.” The monarch hastily said upon their meeting.

“The Giant Bamboo Country is indeed a place worth remembering.” Li Qiye replied with a smile.

The demon monarch placed an ancient box in front of Li Qiye: “This visit was in a hurry so I couldn’t prepare a big present. I have this little thing here and hope that Young Noble Li won’t laugh.”

Li Qiye looked at the box and didn't move at all. He simply nodded and said: "I accept your goodwill, so I will accept this gift as well."

The demon monarch heaved a sigh of relief after seeing Li Qiye accept the present. It would be quite a bad start if Li Qiye were to reject the gift.

The monarch was old and experienced, thus his dealings were meticulous and well thought out as he said: "County Envoy Shi Hao had contributed a lot to the Stonetreading County; he is dutiful and dedicated. I didn't bring too many things on this trip, but I do have a little gift for you."

Shi Hao was stunned as he accepted the gift from the monarch. He was only a small character, an ordinary envoy, so receiving a gift from the monarch was an impossible matter, something beyond his wildest dreams!

The demon monarch went on to say: "Our Majesty adores talents and I heard that Young Noble Li intends to visit the capital once. How about we go to the capital together so I can take you to see Her Majesty? I wonder if this would be acceptable to you?"

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch was a man of high position; how could he be so deferential to an ordinary young cultivator? His respectful attitude astonished Shi Hao, but he slowly got used to it. He understood that Li Qiye was an extremely amazing alchemist.

Li Qiye didn't refuse and nodded his head: "Very well, we can go take a look at the capital. Shi Hao will come with me."

Prior to this, he intended to stay at Jadeblood Mountain for some time to teach Shi Hao pill refinement, but now Li Qiye had decided to take him to the capital.

"I..." Shi Hao was stunned since he had never been to the capital before.

It was a long journey from the Stonetreading County to the Giant Bamboo Country's capital. How long would it take for someone with Shi Hao's cultivation to get there? It was nearly impossible unless an expert decided to bring him along.

"That's good, that's good. Shi Hao should go take a look at the capital for more experience and broadening his horizons." Bai Weng added. He could tell that Li Qiye wanted to groom Shi Hao.

Li Qiye nodded his head and said: "Then it is decided."

Shi Hao couldn't contain his excitement since he never thought he would have an opportunity to visit the capital. This was one of his aspirations — to visit the heart of the Giant Bamboo Country!

After Li Qiye made his decision, the demon monarch couldn't help but rub his hands together in hesitation: "Young Noble Li..."

Li Qiye raised his brows and said: "Say what you want to say."

The demon monarch wryly laughed and said: “Recently, I have been collecting ingredients for a six transformations fate pill. I’ve been wanting to refine one to increase my cultivation, but I hadn’t met the right alchemist. It is fate that we met today, so I wonder if you can refine a six transformations fate pill for me?”

He quickly added right after: “As for the payment, Young Noble Li can just say it.”

Six transformations pills were meant for Heavenly Sovereigns. The demon monarch had cultivated for several thousand years, but his cultivation had been stuck at this bottleneck and couldn’t reach the World Sovereign level.

Li Qiye glanced at him and asked: “Is this a test?”

“No, no, please don’t misunderstand!” The monarch quickly waved his hands in denial and said: “If you don’t want to, then just pretend like I never said anything. That was not my intention at all, it is just that I want the pill badly enough that I couldn’t help but ask for your assistance.”

Whether the monarch’s cautious and respectful attitude were for show or were actually from the bottom of his heart, it was still the same case. At this moment, he didn’t want to annoy Li Qiye, a supreme alchemist that the Giant Bamboo Country could only wish for!

“Fine, it doesn’t matter if it is a test or your desire for the pill.” Li

Qiye said: “Since you showed respect, I will refine one for free this time. Luckily for you, you only want a six transformations pill. I would have asked for a sky high price for one with seven transformations. A fate pill of that level would bring along a tribulation after all, so I wouldn’t help just anyone.”

Six transformations pills were for Heavenly Sovereigns, and seven transformations pills were for Heavenly Kings. At the latter level, pill refinement would bring along quite a terrifying tribulation for the alchemist.

Because of this, fate pills of seven or more transformations had prohibitive pricing that only Heavenly Kings or Virtuous Paragons could afford.

Chapter 619: Refining Pills Like Frying Beans

“Thank you, Young Noble Li. I am very, very grateful!” The monarch’s mind came back as he quickly took out his ingredients; all of them had transformed six times. All of these were good materials whose medicinal spirits had aged for a long time.

It was clear from a glance at the materials that the monarch did not hastily gather them as an excuse, he had indeed been gathering them for a long time for pill refinement.

“How do you want me to refine it?” Li Qiye looked at the materials then back at the monarch.

The monarch was surprised, but he quickly answered: “I am only a layman so Young Noble Li can decide everything.”

Li Qiye was very pleased with the monarch’s attitude. He had always been a person who prefers soft over hard. He smiled and took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

“Boom!” The cauldron’s flame erupted, but Li Qiye was too lazy to take a look and casually threw all the ingredients inside. Even in the era of the Alchemy God, very few people could compare to him regarding the dao of alchemy. In this generation, Li Qiye could personally refine pills, so after he got familiar with it, the whole process became a piece of cake to him. This type of fate pill refinement was no challenge unless it was an immortal pill!

“Crakkk—” A sound that resembled beans being fried appeared as the flame that danced like a dragon and phoenix refined the materials inside.

Although the monarch was not an alchemist, he was still thrown into a daze while watching the process.

Bai Weng had previously told him how Li Qiye refined pills so the monarch was mentally prepared. However, seeing it with his own eyes still left him shaking and breathless.

This was the second time Shi Hao and Bai Weng watched, but they were still astounded. Li Qiye’s style was very stimulating and impactful to watch for alchemists. They couldn’t see his process with their current level, but it was the most beautiful scene in the world, at least, for alchemists.

After a series of crackles, Li Qiye shouted quietly and turned off the fire before taking out the pill. In the blink of an eye, a six transformations fate pill flew into a gourd.

Li Qiye threw the gourd towards the monarch and put away his cauldron, then he lightly said: “Okay, take it.”

Li Qiye’s appearance didn’t look like he had just refined pills at all. Refining high level fate pills was a great challenge to alchemists; it was both tough and required full concentration.

The monarch couldn't calm down as he asked blankly: "It's done...? Just like that?"

This was the fastest pill refinement speed he had ever seen. No one in the world could be faster than Li Qiye.

Li Qiye drily answered this inquiry: "This is only a six transformations fate pill, one without a tribulation, so how long could it possibly take? This is not an imperial pill or an immortal pill after all; those would take some time."

Others would think that Li Qiye was insane for saying such things. Even an Alchemy Saint couldn't guarantee success for refining a six transformations pill in one go. If it was fast, then it would be one or two days; slow would be three to five days. Who could do it like Li Qiye? Refining pills like frying beans?

But of course, this was normal for Li Qiye. He had become proficient after refining pills back at the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect. Moreover, back in the remote times of the Desolate Era — the age of the Alchemy God, Li Qiye himself had developed many guidelines.

Half of the rules of modern alchemy were from the Alchemy God, and the other half were from Li Qiye! They were the standards that had been used for tens of millions of years.

After reclaiming the canon left behind by the Alchemy God, he had trained with the best alchemy dao in this world. He had practiced many times back in the Cleansing Incense Ancient Sect,

so his pill refinement had reached the zenith.

For him, as long as he put more effort into it, it would not be a problem to reach the Alchemy God's level in the past. In fact, he was the one who guided the Alchemy God before he achieved his unparalleled success in the dao of alchemy. At the moment, the only pills that could be considered a challenge to Li Qiye were imperial pills, immortal pills, or incomparable items such as imperial medicines and era medicines; common alchemy creations were nothing to him.

At this moment, the three were at a complete loss for words and felt that Li Qiye's answer was completely natural and without pretension.

Eventually, the demon monarch calmed down and poured the pill out of the gourd to take a look.

“Pop!” The monarch fell straight to the ground. His reaction shocked both Bai Weng and Shi Hao. Bai Weng helped him up then asked: “Demon Monarch, what is wrong?”

“This... this... How is this possible?!” The monarch lost his calm and involuntarily screamed: “This... is ninety percent purity!” His hand was shaking while holding onto this six transformations fate pill.

Bai Weng's eyes were wide open as he looked at the fate pill in the monarch's hand. This was more than just excellent; it was a ninety percent pure pill with a near golden color!

“Pop!” Bai Weng’s legs gave out as he also dropped to the ground and muttered in a daze: “No... way! Near golden color with ninety percent purity for a six transformations pill! This color is only something the finest nine transformations pills from the legends should have!”

Shi Hao also gasped as he watched this scene unfold. He was a Junior Alchemist, but he had heard of many legends before. Even a simple-minded fella like him realized how untouchable Li Qiye’s alchemy dao was!

It was no wonder why those two were so affected. A successful refinement was already amazing for a six transformations concoction; this meant that it had sixty percent purity. A bronze color was already of the finest grade. After all, the potency of ingredients that had only transformed six times was limited.

As the saying goes: [pills are never naked](#). For alchemists, especially the high ranking ones, there were two standards for gauging the quality of fate pill: purity and color.

The raw is “pills are never barefoot”, so I’m guessing it is never naked and is saying that pills are easily gauged by their colors. This is one expression I do not know, and a google search only... ahem... led to some unsavory images. Just kidding, they were good images, albeit quite distracting.

For example, a six transformations fate pill with sixty percent purity should help a Heavenly Sovereign increase his cultivation by sixty percent, but this was strictly theoretical.

Normally, in order for a pill to achieve the above, it needed to be of the finest grade with a golden color. Most of the time, fate pills with sixty percent purity could only increase a Heavenly Sovereign's power by sixty percent in a minor level. Nevertheless, this was already quite precious.

More often than not, the six transformations pills refined by most alchemists might have sixty percent purity, but they would carry a slightly yellow color that resembled copper. These were already considered high grade.

However, Li Qiye was able to refine a ninety percent purity six transformations pill with a golden color, so how could others not be shocked? Even a Legendary Alchemist wouldn't be able to refine such a pill — this was absolutely impossible!

Normally, only nine transformations pills would have ninety percent purity. It was already heaven-defying for a six transformations pill to have seventy percent purity. Once again, pills are never naked, and only nine transformations pills should have the near golden color.

Despite all of this knowledge, right here and now, this impossibility appeared on the six transformations pill, causing the group of three to lose their minds.

If six transformations pills with a bronze color and sixty percent purity refined by other alchemists were considered high-grade, then Li Qiye's pill was of an immortal grade. Other pills were

merely trash compared to this one!

“I’m... not... dreaming, right?” The monarch was extremely excited as he held the pill with quivering hands.

Such a fate pill wouldn’t only increase his cultivation by sixty percent. This was more than enough to help him break through his bottleneck and directly become a Heavenly King!

The monarch was even a little reluctant to take such a supreme pill. It could be said that this pill was rare even across the eons and was definitely worth keeping as a precious collectible.

“You are not dreaming.” Li Qiye slowly said: “You collected only the good stuff. Not only did all the materials transform six times, they aged well and had enough medicinal strength. If your materials were a bit worse, then it would have only been at eighty percent purity. It seems that you have spent a lot of effort collecting them.”

The monarch composed himself and deeply bowed before speaking with extreme gratitude: “The pill you are granting me is akin to a chance at a new life. This little demon has nothing to repay this debt. In the future, just say a single word and this little demon will not say no!”

The monarch’s gesture was not just for show. At his age, he had no chance of reaching the Heavenly King realm, so Li Qiye’s pill had completely changed the monarch’s fate. Although sovereigns and kings were only one realm apart, there was a huge gap

between the two.

More importantly, even if Li Qiye was not an Alchemy Emperor at the moment, he would become one in the future! Although an Alchemy Emperor did not lord over the world like an Immortal Emperor, they were still a high and above existence beseeched for favors by countless Virtuous Paragons. It would be an honor to be of service to an Alchemy Emperor.

Regardless of the Alchemy Emperor's cultivation, there would be times when Virtuous Paragons or even Immortal Emperors asked them for help!

Ancient Pine was only a Demon Monarch so he knew he was extremely lucky to be in Li Qiye's presence.

Li Qiye leisurely accepted the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch's bow and nodded his head to say: "Stand up, get ready to depart for the capital."

Ancient Pine and Bai Weng voiced their agreement then went and waited outside.

After they left, Li Qiye pushed the box Ancient Pine had given him in front of Shi Hao and said: "You take it."

"But..." Shi Hao was hesitant and didn't dare to accept it. No matter what was inside the box, the monarch's solemn expression earlier showed that it had to be a wonderful item.

Chapter 620: Giant Bamboo Country

Of course, for Li Qiye, who had seen countless treasures, no matter what Ancient Pine's gift was, it wouldn't enter his sight. Li Qiye said: "Take it, maybe you will have a use for it."

Shi Hao calmed down. He obediently listened to Li Qiye and accepted the box.

Li Qiye added: "Take whatever you can with you. Perhaps you will stay there from now on after this trip. As long as you work hard, the Giant Bamboo Country will not mistreat you."

Shi Hao respectfully replied: "I will remember Brother Li's words." He engraved these words into his heart.

Outside of those close to him, Li Qiye wouldn't easily pass down merit laws or his alchemy dao to just anyone. His decision to teach Shi Hao was not only because he held high regards for Shi Hao, he also wanted to train him out of love for the Giant Bamboo Country so that it could have an alchemist with high potential later on.

Shi Hao went to gather his luggage. He was a bit unwilling at first, but in the end, he made up his mind and decided to go with Li Qiye to the capital. He was still young and couldn't contain his excitement.

The group followed the monarch to the capital. Ancient Pine was very attentive and acted respectfully as if he was a servant. This was quite a fascinating scene since the monarch was one of the

eighteen demon monarchs of the Giant Bamboo Country, a great character who presided over an entire domain. But now, he was someone else's servant — this was quite difficult to believe.

However, the monarch was clear on the fact that he was allowed to attend to Li Qiye because Li Qiye liked him. Otherwise, he would not even be qualified to act as his attendant.

Meanwhile, Bai Weng played second fiddle to the monarch and took care of the menial tasks.

The Giant Bamboo Country's capital was a big and extremely prosperous city where demons and golems gathered.

The moment one set foot inside, they would see a gigantic tree growing from the depths of the imperial palace, a tree that towered all the way up into the clouds and covered half of the sky.

The capital was enveloped by the shadow of this bamboo tree, creating quite a scenic picture. The lushful green shade of the tree would amaze any new visitor to the city.

The name of the country came from this huge bamboo tree. Rumor has it that the country would remain strong for as long as the tree continued to live; some people believed that the tree was also a lot older than the Giant Bamboo Country.

No one in present times could state the origin of this tree, and there were very few writings about it even in the imperial palace.

Another legend dictated that this was the Divine Guardian of the country, that the tree itself was an invincible god that had always protected the country. This was the reason why this country continued to exist for millions of years.

Despite this speculation, no one had ever seen the Divine Guardian take action before. For the past millions of years, the country enjoyed peace free of large-scale wars since no one ever attacked its capital.

It was a haven for demons. Although there were many golems here as well, it was still dominated by the demon race.

However, the progenitor of the country was neither golem nor demon. Those who didn't know about this particular piece of history would be shocked after learning this fact.

The old tales stated that the progenitor was the most amazing goddess or marvelous immortal fairy. It didn't matter whether she was a deity or an immortal, the progenitor was extremely powerful during that era.

Although the written records about the progenitor were scarce, it was a huge event in the entire Nine Worlds when she founded the Giant Bamboo Country.

At its inception, countless sects and tribes from all over the Nine Worlds came to celebrate the occasion, including the monstrous existences in the Stone Medicine World like the Alchemy Kingdom and the Jianlong Clan. The most popular rumor was that even the

Immortal Emperor of that generation personally came!

Future generations were very skeptical of this matter. They felt that these records belonging to the Bamboo Country could have been embellished to flatter itself.

However, this was not only limited to the country's records, even the Alchemy Kingdom had the same tales in their historical annals.

These few words were shocking enough. All the races and Godkings and even an Immortal Emperor from all over the worlds came to visit!

The writings about the progenitor herself were very scarce as well. Some wrote that she was an immortal while others believed that she was a goddess.

Her origin and background remained a mystery and was without any records. What kind of existence was worthy of such respect that all the great existences over the Nine Worlds came to celebrate?

There were some debates regarding the personal arrival of an Immortal Emperor. This was written in the Giant Bamboo's records, but other lineages believed that the emperor only sent his congratulations and did not personally attend. Nevertheless, it was clear that even an Immortal Emperor was alerted of the founding of the Giant Bamboo Country.

Such a history was heavily debated in the Giant Bamboo Country and even throughout the Alchemy Realm. All were confused by why the Giant Bamboo Progenitor establishing her own country was such a big deal.

Despite the commotion of its founding, the country had never been powerful enough in the past millions of years to compare to any imperial lineage. In fact, it didn't even belong in the top rankings for great powers, but it had always been at peace. Even until now, no great powers or imperial lineages had dared to attack the Giant Bamboo Country.

This always-peaceful country followed the system where its royal lord position would be passed down to the most capable person. Thus, despite not being a strong country, it was heaven for those desiring a mundane life, especially for ordinary mortals.

Li Qiye and his group entered the capital. The four of them harbored different emotions and thoughts.

Shi Hao, the youngest of the group, was especially excited for his first visiting the capital. He looked around like a country bumpkin visiting a city for the first time and was especially shaken to see the huge bamboo tree that pierced into the clouds.

Of course, the boy was ecstatic since his dream was to visit the capital. Today, it had been fulfilled, so how could he not be overwhelmed with joy?

As for Li Qiye, complex emotions ran rampant as he looked at the

huge bamboo tree up in the clouds and the capital below.

After so many years, the Giant Bamboo Country was still here. The bamboo tree was still here, but his old acquaintances were gone. After Yan'er left, Li Qiye still visited the Giant Bamboo Country very often. However, in future generations, every time he came to the Stone Medicine World, he only stayed outside to look at this old city from afar as well as its vast scenery instead of entering the capital.

To Li Qiye, this was a place that contained many memories that would evoke sadness upon remembrance.

In this life, Li Qiye had finally stepped inside the capital. Although the people living here were no longer the same, Li Qiye still wanted to see this country established by Yan'er as well as visit a few places from so many years ago.

Since Li Qiye was silent, Bai Weng and Ancient Pine next to him especially didn't dare to speak. Only the young Shi Hao was excited and found interest in everything within his gaze.

It was already nighttime when they reached the capital. Ancient Pine had his own mansion in the capital so he invited Li Qiye to his place, saying: "Young Noble, you must be tired from the long trip. It is now dark, so how about you stay here and rest?"

Li Qiye wanted to stay at the capital for a while, thus he was not in a hurry and nodded his agreement.

After arranging a place for Li Qiye as well as telling the servants to treat him with the utmost care, Ancient Pine quickly entered the imperial palace to seek an audience with the Demon King.

“Demon Monarch, what matter requires that you need to see me at night?” Madam Zi Yan curiously asked after the monarch asked to see her at this time of day.

Ancient Pine quickly said: “Your Majesty, I want to introduce to you an alchemist. You must get him to stay!”

In addition to being very humble and open-minded, Madam Zi Yan was a wise king and always searched for talents. After hearing this, she shook her head and said: “[Elder Pine](#), recently, all the monarchs have been recommending me alchemists. A few of them aren’t bad, but you don’t need to be so hasty like this.”

Pine = Song. I believe the more accurate translation here would be, Elder Song, since Song might actually be his name too, but Pine is okay I suppose.

“No, Your Majesty, Young Noble Li is peerless. Those other alchemists can’t compare to him! I wouldn’t be in such a hurry if it was an ordinary alchemist.” Ancient Pine quickly added: “It is more apt to say that we need to beseech such a supreme alchemist like Young Noble Li.”

Madam Zi Yan was quite surprised and asked: “He is that great? How does he compare to the four alchemy prodigies?”

“Those four are nothing compared to Young Noble Li.” Ancient

Pine quickly answered: “The future Alchemy Emperor will be Young Noble Li for sure!”

“Elder Pine, you have to consider carefully before saying such words.” Madam Zi Yan was stunned and had to speak in a serious tone. All eighteen demon monarchs were experienced and were not the impetuous type. However, Ancient Pine’s words just now were very grave, so Madam Zi Yan had no choice but to act with discretion.

Chapter 621: Recruiting Talents

“I am absolutely certain. Here, this is a pill refined by Young Noble Li where I watched the process with my own eyes. Please have look, Your Majesty.” The demon monarch hurriedly handed a pill over.

Madam Zi Yan’s expression greatly changed as she got up from her throne after seeing the six transformations pill. She cried out: “Impossible!”

“This fate pill is real.” The Demon King’s reaction was within his expectations. If he didn’t see it with his own eyes, he wouldn’t have believed it either.

Madam Zi Yan exclaimed with a pale countenance: “Ninety percent purity, golden color... This is the most amazing and peerless six transformations pill! The one and only of this generation!”

Ancient Pine spoke: “This situation should only occur in nine transformations pills, but Young Noble Li was able to do so for a six transformations pill. It is not an exaggeration to say that no one in the contemporary times can match him.”

After a long while, Madam Zi Yan took a deep breath and slowly sat down, then she skeptically asked: “Did Young Noble Li really refine this pill?”

Ancient Pine immediately replied: “I am one hundred percent

certain. I swear with the life of my entire family! Your Majesty, this is Young Noble Li holding our Giant Bamboo Country in high esteem.”

Then, the monarch retold Li Qiye’s dan refinement process.

Even a Demon King like her couldn’t help but gasp after hearing the monarch’s story. After some time, she solemnly said: “This is completely unbelievable... If this is true, then isn’t he comparable to an Alchemy Emperor?”

Ancient Pine responded: “Even if he isn’t one right now, he will definitely become an Alchemy Emperor in the future; the four prodigies can’t compare to him. If our Giant Bamboo Country can keep a talent like this, then we’ll rise sharply in the future!”

Madam Zi Yan remained quiet. As a Demon King and the ruler of a country, she understood the significance behind an Alchemy Emperor. If they had one in the future, then guests would come nonstop with an endless supply of people asking for medicines. Virtuous Paragons and Godkings would gladly stay in the Giant Bamboo Country. If this became reality, then the Giant Bamboo Country would be prosperous just like the golden age of their founding.

A supreme Alchemy Emperor could change one’s fate and prevent death. Even if they couldn’t reign over the Nine Worlds like Immortal Emperors, their prominence remained strong.

Madan Zi Yan calmed down and asked with a serious tone: “What

is the background of this Young Noble Li?”

Ancient Pine answered: “Young Noble Li is a human, a vagrant cultivator that doesn’t belong to any sect.”

“How could that be?” Madam Zi Yan pondered for a bit before stating: “All four alchemy prodigies are from famous heritages. If Young Noble Li is this amazing, then he shouldn’t be so unknown.”

Her skepticism was not without merit. Alchemists had a higher status in the Stone Medicine World than any other world, and a peerless alchemist was even more valued. All the imperial lineages would compete for them.

Ancient Pine quickly brought up Bai Weng’s point of view: “We can’t speculate the thoughts of extraordinary people. In my opinion, Young Noble Li doesn’t care for fame since he could easily gain prestige, power, and treasures whenever he wants.”

“But why would such a supreme alchemist stay at our country?” Madam Zi Yan asked with doubt.

Ancient Pine told her Shi Hao’s situation: “I think Young Noble Li has some sentiment for the Giant Bamboo Country. He is also training a disciple who is currently an envoy of ours.”

Madam Zi Yan contemplated again before eventually saying: “It would be best if such a supreme alchemist could stay at our Giant

Bamboo Country; this is an opportunity granted by the heavens. However, we need to discuss this further and see if we can find out more about his background.”

“Your Majesty’s worries make sense.” Ancient Pine said: “But we might miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

“I understand.” Madam Zi Yan nodded and said: “Keep Young Noble Li here for now. The ancestors and I will discuss this. We need to draw a bottom line if he wishes to stay. As long as we don’t have to cross that line, then we’ll do all we can to keep him here. I will send people to investigate his background.”

“Your Majesty’s decision can’t be any better.” Ancient Pine praised: “It is best if Your Majesty made a decision now and discussed further details later. I will try my best to hold him back, but don’t expect more than three days. If we cause him to feel unpleasant, then everything will go down the drain.”

Madam Zi Yan nodded and said: “Elder Pine can worry about treating him well. If the ancestors give permission, I will go see him tomorrow.”

Ancient Pine agreed and was about to leave before Madam Zi Yan spoke once more: “Regarding the Alchemy Conference, you and the other monarchs can discuss it a bit. Try to delay picking the second participant for now. We can decide on the Qing Clan right now, but give the decision on the Lie Clan more time.”

“Your Majesty wants to use the boy from the Lie Clan as a

participant for the conference?” Ancient Pine was taken by surprise: “The boy’s skill is much worse than the Qing boy.”

“I’m still thinking about it.” Madam Zi Yan shook her head and said: “We don’t have a better option. Although the Lie Clan’s inheritor has flaws regarding his alchemy dao, we don’t have many who are better than him. More importantly, the Lie Clan has a Fire Source so they will always have a good Heavenly Cauldron. If the Lie boy joins, then he will surely bring his family’s heirloom, giving him a great advantage.”

At this point, she paused a bit before continuing: “What’s more, the Qing Clan still strongly recommends the Lie Clan’s inheritor as the second candidate. Although the two clans are related, I suppose the Lie boy’s conditions are not that bad. The Eagle Demon Monarch had pushed for this several times already.”

Ancient Pine could only sigh. Although the country was always peaceful, there was no lack of internal political maneuvering. He replied: “If Young Noble Li stays and participates in the conference, then we can relax and won’t need the Qing Clan. The Qing boy is far worse than the four prodigies, but the four are nothing compared to Young Noble Li.”

Madam Zi Yan slightly nodded in agreement: “It would be best if Young Noble Li agreed to stay and represented us. However, the important part is whether we can accept his conditions or not.”

Both Ancient Pine and Madam Zi Yan believed that a promising alchemist would have astonishing conditions required for them to stay at the Giant Bamboo Country. If one couldn’t afford to pay the

price, how could they hold onto a supreme alchemist?

Ancient Pine remained silent. The Giant Bamboo Country was not comparable to an imperial lineage, so if Li Qiye's conditions were too high, then they wouldn't be able to accept them.

At this point, Madam Zi Yan said: "Elder Pine, you can return now, and treat Young Noble Li well. I will report this to the ancestors and see their decision."

A Demon King like her couldn't decide such a grand matter alone.

Ancient Pine bowed his head and left the imperial palace.

While all of this was taking place, Li Qiye was currently staying at the mansion with many servants at his beck and call. Under the command of Ancient Pine, none of the servants dared to slack off, treating Li Qiye as their most esteemed guest.

After washing his face, he dismissed all the servants. All alone in the room, he absorbed the worldly energy and began to activate his merit law.

He was cultivating a law from the Death Scripture. With the channeling of the law, a white flower floated inside his sea of memories. The sea had eighteen petals that had just finished being refined. However, the petals were bleak as if they were made from paper.

This white flower was the Death Record, one of the four techniques in the scripture.

After successfully creating the Death Record, each time the user died, one of the flower petals would be activated.

At the same time, a huge seal floated inside his body. This seal was formed from extremely complex laws. It was the Death Seal, another of the four techniques.

When this seal is completed, if the body suffered any injury, then this seal would carve a supreme law that redirected all the damage to the seal instead, then it would transform this injury into an energy of death!

As for the last of the four techniques, the Death Chapter, Li Qiye couldn't finish it at this time because it required a huge amount of death energy!

After a lot of hard work, the Death Seal and Death Record had been completed. Li Qiye then heaved a sigh of relief and stood up.

He left the room to gaze at the tranquil night sky with luminous stars. Being at the capital of the Giant Bamboo Country made his mind quite heavy with thoughts.

On this quiet and solitudinous night, Li Qiye couldn't help but think of a certain person, a person who had followed him by his

side as his friend.

He eventually calmed his sentimental mood and wanted to go to a certain location. Many years had passed and he wondered if it was still there. Without much further thought, he flew there to take a look.

In the outskirts of the capital, there was a very small village to the eastern mountain range.

This village was very inconspicuous and was under the Giant Bamboo Country's jurisdiction.

There were only around ten families in the village — a few dozen people. It was very ordinary looking and there was a big old house at the end of the village. This old house had lost its splendor, but the architectural style indicated that it was once quite majestic.

It was indeed surprising to see such an ancient house in this little village.

Chapter 622: Most Arrogant Throughout The Eons

This house was the property of the Giant Bamboo Country, so although no one was staying here, the country maintained this house carefully so that it remained intact.

It was the dead of the night so all the villagers were sleeping. There were only one or two flickering lights.

In the dark, Li Qiye stood before the old house at the end of town that had lasted for millions of years with his emotions running rampant. It was still here...

He looked at it and past images resurfaced in his heart. The events of old still lingered in his mind as he stepped inside. After tens of millions of years, Li Qiye finally came back as if it was just yesterday. Some things were hard to forget; Li Qiye had assumed that with the passage of time, he wouldn't be able to remember, but everything was still the same.

In this house, he walked from corner to corner. There were no changes inside compared to what he remembered. The scene remained the same, but the people were no longer there.

He lit up all the lamps around the house and laid down in the tallest chair in the hall. He slowly closed his eyes and became lost in the past.

In the present times, how many people knew that back in the old era, countless strategies that affected the entire Nine Worlds came from this ordinary old house?

How many knew that in the old era, countless orders that were obeyed by the rest of the world came from this house?

How many knew that in that old era, numerous Virtuous Paragons and Godkings stood in this very room, awaiting their next order?

Although this was an ordinary house, back in that time, even invincible Godkings had to wait by the door for permission before entering.

Li Qiye gently sighed with his eyes closed. That year, Yan'er was only a little girl with a humble origin, but her personality was quite commendable so Li Qiye decided to train her.

After being immersed in the past for a long while, he suddenly opened his eyes and looked outside the door with a serious glare.

A shadow flickered right outside. Someone was entering, a woman. Her beauty was quite alluring, shaming even the flowers and the moon. An elegant and noble air emanated from her body. With a single glance, it was clear that she held great authority.

The woman was stunned to see Li Qiye relaxing in the main hall, but very quickly, she regained her leisurely elegance and slowly

walked inside and sat down next to a table.

Li Qiye only gave her a glance before closing his eyes again as if nothing had happened.

After sitting down, she took a look at Li Qiye, immediately recognizing him as a human. A body of flesh and blood without visible blood energy or cultivation — only a human could have these characteristics.

She carefully gauged him once more. As someone who had weathered countless storms and met many great characters, she still hadn't met anyone as arrogant as Li Qiye.

He sat in his high chair not putting anyone in his sight. He was too lazy to even care for the heaven and earth with his supercilious demeanor. However, on this second attempt at judging this arrogant young man full of hubris despite his ordinary appearance, an indescribable temperament could be found.

The woman noticed that the little man sitting on his throne didn't emit a terrifying aura, but he had a monstrous blood energy. His leisured pose as he rested with his eyes closed was as calm as the water in a well.

This little man before her seemed to be sitting above the nine heavens as the lord of myriad worlds. Even a Godking would need to stand aside with their head hung low.

This little man, at first, seemed to appear conceited, but a closer look would reveal that he had an unrivalled style that encompassed the Nine Worlds.

At this moment, when he closed his eyes to rest, he gave off the feeling that the world would be dark when his eyes were closed, and the world would be bright when his eyes were open!

After observing this little man for a while, the woman secretly chuckled and shook her head. How could that be? How could this young man be above the nine heavens and order the Nine Worlds?

She also found the whole thing to be quite strange. This place was quite remote and only had mortals around, so why did this young man come to this old building? His relaxed appearance would hint that this was his own home, and he didn't look like a homeless beggar either.

After a long silence, the woman finally broke the serene scene: "Do you know where this place is?"

Li Qiye opened his eyes and answered with a question: "Where is this place? You tell me."

The woman smiled in response: "I want to hear your opinion." Her voice was very pleasant; it was clear with a touch of gentleness.

Li Qiye laughed then closed his eyes again before answering

while laying down: “This is the place where one orders the Nine Worlds, controls the gods, and reigns over myriad realms. The world trembled before any order from this place and myriad races obeyed every single word. Although this place is small and crowded, it is the frontier of the Nine Worlds, the aspiration of all the races and sects, even though they didn’t dare to disturb this quiet place.”

The woman couldn’t help but feel like laughing, but she didn’t laugh. She looked at the little man ahead and felt that he was too immersed in his own play, how he thought that he was the ruler of this world. Nevertheless, she did find it odd the way he nonchalantly uttered each word. They didn’t resemble the words of a boastful liar at all.

“But that is not the case in my knowledge.” The woman spoke: “As far as I know, this is the place where the Giant Bamboo Progenitor used to meditate. Rumor has it that whenever the progenitor needed to think about something, she would come here and come up with a solution.”

“That was indeed the case as well.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “But this place was also the commanding throne of this world, a location admired by countless races.”

“Really?” The woman jokingly replied after seeing Li Qiye’s serious demeanor: “If this was the location that commanded the world, who are you to sit in such a high and mighty seat? Are you the king of gods? Or maybe the Immortal Emperor of a generation?”

Li Qiye only smiled to see the woman's doubtful appearance. Of course, it was already good enough that she didn't consider him as someone insane, so he also laughed at her joke before answering seriously: "No, what is so good about being the king of gods or an Immortal Emperor? That would be very boring. Since time immemorial, there have been many Immortal Emperors, so there is nothing new about being one. It would be very meaningless."

The woman was speechless after hearing this response. This was the most arrogant thing she had ever heard in her life.

Who were Immortal Emperors? They were invincible existences that ruled the Nine Worlds and all its inhabitants. For millions and millions of years, countless geniuses, both old and young, aspired and dreamed of the day where they could shoulder the Heaven's Will and become an emperor.

Yet this young man said that it was very boring being an Immortal Emperor. Anyone would think that he was crazy upon hearing this.

However, the woman was an open-minded person on top of having great knowledge, so after hearing his reply, she didn't laugh at Li Qiye but found it rather interesting instead, so she asked with a smile: "If it is boring to be an Immortal Emperor, then who do you want to be? Or rather, what position do you find interesting?"

"The dark hand behind the curtains." Li Qiye couldn't help but smile after noticing her interest and continued: "The person behind the countless eras, the one who controls the scenes for

millions of years, manipulating the direction of the Nine Worlds — now that is interesting.”

“The dark hand behind the curtains? The one who controls the scenes and manipulates the direction of the Nine Worlds?” The woman jolted after hearing his answer, repeating his words while in a daze. This kind of thinking was quite surprising and interesting. To be the person behind the curtains instead of an Immortal Emperor.

The woman calmed down and began to playfully joke with the little man: “Then would even Godkings have to serve this person behind the curtains?”

Li Qiye couldn’t help but take another look at this patient woman playing along with him: “Godkings? They are nothing. If I was the person behind the curtains, then even Immortal Emperors would come from my tutelage. Training one or two Immortal Emperors would be very ordinary.”

The woman was at a loss for words once again since this one phrase was more outrageous than the previous. Throughout history, who would dare to utter such arrogant words? Teaching one or two Immortal Emperors? The woman felt that one couldn’t surpass the haughty attitude embedded in such a phrase.

However, how could she know that Li Qiye was simply telling the truth? For tens of millions of years, Li Qiye had been the Dark Crow behind the curtains; how could anyone know of his past deeds unless they were his followers?

The woman broke into a smile and said: “So to say, anyone who could sit in this room would all be unbeatable Godkings, peerless True Gods, or Immortal Emperors?” She didn’t sneer at him since she found his ideas to be very interesting. No one would dare to say what he had said.

In fact, in her eyes, she felt that although there were many geniuses right now in the Stone Medicine World, no youth would dare to declare such bombastic rhetoric, outside of the young man in front of her.

Chapter 623: The Past Is Gone With The Wind

Li Qiye glanced at her again and nodded his head, saying: “You can put it that way. Unfortunately, you weren’t born in that era so you couldn’t see it with your own eyes.”

She couldn’t help but play along when the young man answered in such a serious manner: “What kind of era was it?”

Li Qiye looked at her and smiled. He was taking a journey back in time. After a while, he slowly spoke: “That era was the calm after an endless war; the peace that was earned after bathing the Nine Worlds in blood. During that era, when I closed my eyes, the world lost its colors; when I opened my eyes, I gave the radiance back to the realms. In that era, the world was radiant when I was happy, and myriad races trembled beneath my rage. Even the most unbeatable mythical races and invincible existences that could sweep through the realms retreated before my presence. No matter who they might be, if they chose to oppose me, then either stand out and let me massacre them or slumber forever with their tails tucked between their legs!” After this prose, Li Qiye opened his eyes as a cold glare flashed across his pupils.

The woman sitting by the table saw a stunning illusion the moment she caught this glare flashing from his eyes. It was as if she was seeing an overlord sitting above the nine heavens — unbeatable across the ages!

Behind him was a sea of blood filling the sky with endless wailing as millions of enemies were completely massacred by him. He

reigned over that era and suppressed all existences that blocked his path, no matter who they were. At that moment, he was determined to accomplish his goal even if it meant killing the rest of the world!

After a while, Li Qiye couldn't help but rest his eyes again and let out a soft sigh. Recalling that era left him inadvertently fatigued.

The woman felt a distortion in time, prompting her to blurt out: "Why was there such an air of murder and hostility? Didn't all the races live together in peace?" She felt as if this young man had truly bathed the world in blood before.

Li Qiye slowly opened his eyes again to look at the woman: "For millions of years, there was one race that would not give up and would always raise its head once more. Then there were those fools and lineages who thought that a few existences would be able to restructure the order of the Nine Worlds. There is nothing left to say to these ignorant fools. Only with a bloodbath would we be able to make them understand that we are the rulers of this world!"

The woman couldn't help but force a smile after hearing Li Qiye's answer. She didn't know whether this matter was accurate or not, but she was infected by his atmosphere, causing her to join the play as well.

She accepted her role after calming down and looked at the young man ahead before jokingly asking: "If you said that Godkings were here awaiting their orders, then what is me sitting here considered?"

Li Qiye gazed at her and smiled: “Do you really want a position right here?” At this point, he looked outside with a carefree demeanor.

The woman was not in a rush and waited for Li Qiye to continue.

After a while, Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and glanced at her once more: “In the past, I had a divine beast that pulled my chariot. If you want a position, then you can be my driver.”

The woman was secretly unhappy. Although she was not supreme by any means, she had a great status, so now when the young man asked her to be a driver, it was the same as humiliating her.

Li Qiye didn't mind her and continued on: “I like having a female driver. Women are careful and good at controlling speed so the rides are always very comfortable. I had many female drivers before, and I felt that they had done a very commendable job.”

With great annoyance, she wanted to dispute him, but she rethought it instead and all her anger suddenly disappeared. Why the need to argue with him? This young man was only too immersed in his dramatic play.

“I can't handle such a position.” Finally, the woman said with a touch of displeasure. Others would surely consider Li Qiye insane, but this woman had a great temper and tolerance so she didn't mind the minor details.

Li Qiye noticed her expression and smilingly asked: “You feel that being a driver is an affront to you?” Li Qiye continued on slowly: “Being my driver is an honor; those who can stay by my side are all loyal subjects. In this world, what are so great about Virtuous Paragons? People who are capable of creating their countries or being deified? I could send out any of my followers, even a driver, and they would be enough to suppress a God-Monarch!”

“Okay, I know you sit above the nine heavens and govern the Nine Worlds, but I really don’t fit such an amazing position.” The woman snappily replied.

Li Qiye looked at her and only chuckled without saying anything else. He stood up and couldn’t help but look around the room, sighing with a complicated heart. However, this trip to this old house had made him feel better.

Eventually, he was getting ready to leave.

The woman couldn’t help but ask: “You are leaving?”

Li Qiye didn’t turn around and disappeared into the night.

The woman was stunned for a while. The young man’s words were too outrageous, so outrageous that others would label him as insane! She herself thought that he was too deep in his own delusions.

However, the expression that he showed as he left didn't resemble an actor or a deranged maniac. This young man was a person with a story.

The woman sat there contemplating the events that had just transpired. During the late night, a young man suddenly appeared and treated this house like his own home, then he continued on to spew out some crazy spiel.

After a long time, she regained her composure and shook her head with a smile to dispel all unnecessary thoughts. Tonight, she came to this house to sort out her worries. This had been her habit whenever she faced trouble and needed some time for quiet contemplation.

Li Qiye left the house but didn't go back to the capital right away. Instead, he took a stroll through the nearby area instead. Sometimes he rode waves or climbed a mountain. Other times, he might be flying over the sky of an ancient city...

Li Qiye's wound had finally recovered, and he was finally able to be alone after leaving Jadeblood Mountain. He took his time traveling around the Giant Bamboo Country to the same places that he had been to in the past.

Sad sentiments filled his heart when he arrived at the place where he had met Yan'er. He had trained her and let her stay by his side.

The beginning of that era was a time of unhappiness for Li Qiye. At that time, he ordered many wise sages to sweep through the Nine Worlds and commanded his God-Monarchs to massacre many lineages and races. The war raged on until the remnants of the Ancient Ming Race finally lay dormant in this world.

His victory was a foregone conclusion at that point during the war. For millions of years, he had participated in many arduous battles and the most tragic of wars. Especially during the era of the Ancient Ming, countless people by his side fell one by one, but he still carried on strong.

Therefore, this conquest was not considered large in scale compared to the previous ones in his life. However, too much blood was spilled in this conquest. Li Qiye ordered the massacre of lineages, even those that belonged to the human, charming spirit, and golem races.

He suddenly felt tired during the aftermath; this came as a surprise to him after millions of years had passed. Even during the most miserable eras, Li Qiye didn't feel the same level of dejection. The main difference was that during the past eras, wise sages from the human race were his comrades, but during this conquest, he had pointed his butcher's blade towards human tribes.

Many people didn't want to ever talk about this conquest, but Li Qiye had no choice except to order for the massacre of the Nine Worlds. At that time, nothing could stop his determination since he swore to never give up until he disposed of all the remnants of the Ancient Ming. He didn't care whether they lay dormant in a tribe or hid in some sects since he stomped even the most powerful

tribes and lineages in order to kill these Ancient Ming.

He didn't want to go back to the era of the Ancient Ming since that era was concluded with countless corpses. Numerous wise sages, both young and old that belonged to all the races, participated in that war in order to end the Ancient Ming Era and herald the start of the prosperous Emperors Era. Because of this, he didn't mind killing any existence that dared to protect the remaining Ancient Ming.

After this conquest, Li Qiye grew weary and traveled alone around the Nine Worlds. At that time, his mood was quite sour. Just like he had said, during his happy times, the Nine Worlds would shine, but when he became angry, myriad races trembled in fear.

Later on, he came to this world and met a girl who was as gentle as water — optimistic and tolerant, meticulous and considerate.

Upon their first meeting, it started with curiosity, then came her thoughtful accommodation... During that time, she had always been taking care of him; his foulest temper was met with forgiveness.

During this period, not too many people dared to stay near him as he raged, but she was always by his side, willing to suffer his wrath!

This girl was allowed to stay near the Dark Crow as he personally trained her! After a long time, Li Qiye finally escaped his

unhappiness while the girl continued to follow him.

Chapter 624: Arrogant Girl

It wasn't until later when Li Qiye — inside the Dark Crow — weakened that he entered a deep slumber. At the very last minute, he especially called for her. He told her that if she wanted to seal herself as well for a long slumber, he would give her a hand.

However, the girl gently answered: “Master, this world is full of hardships and the path towards the grand dao is paved with bitterness. I am already very satisfied to have spent so much time with you as we saw many colorful things in this world together. I am already content, so why the need to seal myself underground and never see the light again?”

Afterward, Li Qiye didn't force the girl as he entered his deep sleep, never to see her again. Meanwhile, she went back to her old abode and established a country for the soldiers who had followed them to battle; this country was named the Giant Bamboo Country.

While crossing the rivers and mountains under the moonlight, Li Qiye let himself be consumed by memories for a long time before calming down. All these emotions eventually subsided and disappeared.

Tens of millions of years had passed through the vicissitudes and storms of life. The pain had become layers of calluses that encompassed his heart and ran through his blazing blood.

Tens of millions of years had passed as countless rains were

drenched with the stench of blood and eternal farewells — Li Qiye had already gotten used to all of this.

Today, he simply became emotional from returning to an old place as his red-hot heart under all the calluses quivered.

He finally smiled while standing under the sky of this land; all the sadness dispersed with the wind.

“Bang, bang, bang!” While Li Qiye was looking at the scenery, a series of thunderous rumbles appeared behind him.

He turned around and saw a horse carriage flying fast in the air. This old carriage carried an insignia with the image of a bow. It was very ancient as if it had been through countless years. This carriage approached quickly like a bolt of lightning while emitting blaring noises. This old carriage almost struck Li Qiye as the driver at the helm shouted: “Get out of the way!”

“Whoosh!” A whip lashed towards Li Qiye like a serpent. However, the driver was not going to be successful whether he intended to lash him flying or have the whip coil around him and fling him away.

The moment the whip got close, Li Qiye put on a serious expression and pulled hard as he swept away the driver who was holding onto the whip.

“Boom!” The driver had yet to regain his mind before both him

and the whip were sent down from the sky.

Meanwhile, the chariot was about to slam into Li Qiye at high velocity, but Li Qiye paid it no mind and simply swung his sleeve.

“Boom!” Both the carriage and the horse were blown away in the air.

As the carriage was about to break from the downward crash, a scowl emanated from inside. A soaring blood energy stabilized the carriage, sweeping through the world like a tsunami as it flew towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye didn't move and stood there calmly like a pillar shouldering the heavens.

“Boom!” This tsunami of blood energy couldn't move Li Qiye at all.

A cold and arrogant voice came from the carriage: “No wonder why you dared to touch my carriage, it seems that you have some skill.” The clear and frigidly arrogant voice gave chills to all listeners.

The carriage's door was opened and a girl walked outside. She carried an arrogant and imposing aura, especially when she looked down from above.

‘Shaming both flowers and the moon’ was not enough to describe

her beauty. She was as prideful as a noble phoenix. She was adorned with an archery dress and had an indomitable spirit amidst her arrogance. Her eyes were as bright as the stars in the night.

No one in this world could enter her eyes. Such a bossy atmosphere made others feel that she was a noble daughter who was used to pointing her fingers and getting her way.

This girl was like a phoenix who flew out of her golden nest with a noble bloodline. Everything in this world was below her, so she could only look down on them.

However, this arrogant girl wasn't only a pretty phoenix with dazzling feathers and a curvaceous body with alluring features, she also had the qualifications to act in this supercilious manner.

Her tsunami-like blood energy proved that she was fairly strong on top of having a noble background. It was difficult for such a person to not have some arrogance, especially when she had the skills to back it up.

Perhaps her noble background could even scare someone to death!

With a glance, Li Qiye immediately knew that this girl was a golem, a golem with a complete human body, and it was one from birth at that, so it was easy to imagine how great her origin must be.

To be born with a complete flesh and blood body... Perhaps her ancestor was an extremely heaven-defying existence, maybe even an Immortal Emperor.

The arrogant girl's eyes narrowed after seeing Li Qiye just standing there without answering; she asked coldly: "I'm talking to you, you hear me?"

Her focused eyes were as sharp as arrows. Even the slightest change wouldn't be able to elude them.

After hearing her harsh inquiry, Li Qiye lazily looked at her and responded: "I hear you, what now?"

The arrogant girl coldly continued: "Daring to stop my path and flip over my carriage, what kind of punishment do you think is suitable? Will you obediently kneel and beg for forgiveness, or will you wait for me to break your hands?"

Li Qiye's lips slightly perched after seeing her bossy attitude. He looked at her with one eye and said: "Is that so? Which eye of yours saw me blocking the road? This land is vast, so how can you say that this is your path? Does your house own it? I was standing right here so you were the blind one running into me. If you are suicidal, don't bring someone else down with you! And now, you're speaking as if you have the moral high ground? Do you think that you can act so cavalier just because you are strong or because you have a powerful family?"

"Of course. If you think you are so skilled, then I don't mind...

Since you don't know life from death, do you want to break your hands yourself, or will you wait for me to take your head?" With that, Li Qiye lazily raised his hand.

When it came to arrogance, who in this world could be more outrageous than Li Qiye? Today, Li Qiye was in a bad mood already, so he didn't mind assisting someone who wished to die.

The arrogant girl trembled from anger. She had always been arrogant on top of having enough power. No matter where she went, both the younger and older generations either gathered around to flatter her or ran away in droves.

Today, a guy out of nowhere had the nerve to bluster before her, so how could she not tremble from rage?

"Good, very good, well said." The girl was driven to laughter from rage as she glared at Li Qiye and arrogantly said: "It seems that I am the unreasonable one. Very well, if you want to argue, then this young lady will entertain you. Don't think that I am a bully! I won't use my clan against a nobody junior like you!"

"Bully?" Li Qiye laughed and said: "Very well, if you want to settle this, then we can talk it out."

He looked at her and slowly said: "You think you are reasonable? Acting in such an aggressive manner? A little girl like you who doesn't try to build her character and instead acts like a phoenix raising its tail, don't you feel like you are grossing other people out?"

“Aggressive?” The girl didn’t back down and coldly countered: “Which eye of yours saw me acting aggressively? I was only speeding along from north to south, so when was I acting like a bully? This is the vast sky with countless possible paths; I was only going down one of them, so how could that be aggressive in any way?”

Even Li Qiye was a bit surprised by her swift response. He didn’t expect that this haughty girl wasn’t slow-witted and was actually very quick and clever with her words.

The girl sneered and continued on: “Plus, even if I was acting like a phoenix raising its tail, what does that have to do with you? You are only a passerby so I can do whatever I want. This is my business, do I need to ask you for permission?”

This proud girl was not only pretty and strong, she also had a sharp tongue with a first class ability to debate. She had an imposing momentum, making it clear that she would not back down against anyone!

“I disgust you?” The girl added one last argument: “You are not even equal to an ant in my eyes, so who cares if you are disgusted or not? Should I care for your opinion?”

The proud girl was really cruel with her words and didn’t show any mercy at all. Anyone who was lacking even a little bit of confidence would run away at once.

Of course, Li Qiye, who had seen countless storms, was not afraid of anyone. He only smiled and said: “You are right about one thing — my opinion doesn’t matter to you. However, you are a girl standing here and running off your foul mouth, so how could we actually reason this out?”

Li Qiye was not a petty person and had always been more lenient towards girls. However, this leniency was limited to the girls who followed him; the sensible ones who had a sense of propriety.

As for the prideful, arrogant, and aggressive girls who always thought that they were right, Li Qiye didn’t mind being a villain and would not show them any face. He would dominate them with rude retorts.

Chapter 625: A Tongue As Sharp As A Blade

“Reason this out?” The arrogant girl sneered and said: “Oh, this bumpkin who started by attacking me wants to reason it out? Did you lose your confidence?”

“Lose my confidence?” Due to his bad mood, he was more than happy to deal with someone who was asking for it. He lazily looked at her and said: “An ugly farm girl like you thinks you can make me lose my confidence? I don’t see anything about you that can scare me. Your chest? You think your flat chest that resembles a basin can scare me? Or is it your ass that’s as dried as tofu? Or is it...”

Normally, Li Qiye wouldn’t act as crass as this, but who told this arrogant girl to encounter him while he was in a bad mood? Her aggressive and arrogant attitude made Li Qiye lose his will to act cordially.

The haughty girl turned red while trembling from anger. She was not only proud because of her strength, but also because of her beauty and figure. Even if she wasn’t number one in the Stone Medicine World, she would be within the top five!

She indeed had many suitors and admirers in the Stone Medicine World; it was a common sight for her to be surrounded by young talents like the moon encircled by the stars. They fawned over her in hopes of the slightest sign of affection or caring words.

But now, this nasty man dared to say that her chest was as flat as

a basin and her butt was as withered as dried tofu — these words were very hurtful to girls.

The arrogant girl pointed at Li Qiye while shivering in anger: “You... Brat, what is your name? I want to kill you even though I have never killed a nobody before!”

Li Qiye was too lazy to bat an eye and said: “Oh? Angry from being ashamed? Earlier, you wanted to reason it out, but now you want to go back on your words? In my opinion, someone at your level should just go back to your mother’s arms and not come out to show off.

“Going back on your words and this untrustworthy... You must have just run out from some wilderness, right? At the very least, you don’t seem like someone who comes from a great clan. Disciples from great clans do not stoop down to this level. Staying true to one’s word is the most basic of etiquette for these great clans...

“Of course, if you want to fight, then I’ll play along. After all, a village girl from the remote regions like you doesn’t know anything about credibility and trust. Such an uncultured girl like you only knows how to use force to solve problems. Okay okay, I will do it your way. Let us fight and use our fists to resolve our quarrel.”

Li Qiye continuously spewed out malicious words. However, he didn’t give a damn since this arrogant girl was not worthy enough for him to maintain a gentleman’s bearing. Moreover, he wouldn’t even look straight at such a girl, so why the need to maintain a

courteous persona? His tolerance and friendliness were dependent on the other party.

“You!” The arrogant girl wanted to vomit blood due to anger. She had always been aggressive, but no one had ever dared to talk back to her, thus Li Qiye’s cruel rebuttal came as a shock.

She took a deep breath and finally contained her urge to kill as she stared at him with her arrow-like glare. She scowled and said: “Fine, today I will be a reasonable person and won’t hold what happened earlier against you. But in the future, you better not fall into my hands, or I’ll let you taste the cruel fate that awaits my opponents!” With that, the arrogant girl turned around and left very quickly. With a rumble, the carriage disappeared into the night.

Li Qiye didn’t bother to give her a second glance. He stretched his back and didn’t care for this matter. To him, it was even more insignificant than a speck of dust. With a gentle brush, this matter of the arrogant girl would be blown away; it was not enough to occupy his thoughts.

He looked at the scenery once more before murmuring: “Yan’er, with me here, the Giant Bamboo Country will continue to stand strong!” He then disappeared amidst the high moon.

That night, Li Qiye returned to Ancient Pine’s mansion back at the capital. He went back to his room and slept without thinking about anything else.

Of course, no one in the mansion knew that Li Qiye had gone on a sightseeing journey throughout the night.

The next day, Li Qiye lazily woke up. Since it was rare for him to return to the capital of the Giant Bamboo Country, he had quite a good night's sleep.

A servant brought him a water basin to clean himself. Meanwhile, Bai Weng was waiting outside. Shi Hao woke up early as well and saw Bai Weng, so he also stood there, waiting with him.

Bai Weng greeted Li Qiye the moment he walked out: "Did Young Noble sleep well?" He felt that serving Li Qiye was an honor.

To an alchemist, following the future Alchemy Emperor was the greatest of glories. It was like an expert contributing to an Immortal Emperor. This would bring honor to their family!

"It wasn't bad." Li Qiye said with a grin. Only Li Qiye knew what happened last night.

Bai Weng respectfully said: "The demon monarch has not returned since he is meeting the other demon monarchs. I'm afraid he won't be back till noon. He said that after coming back, he will take Young Noble to see Her Majesty."

"There's no rush." Li Qiye smilingly said: "Today, we will go sightseeing. This is Shi Hao's first time at the capital, so we should buy a few items for him. For an alchemist, skills might be

important, but so are the cauldrons and other items that are also required to doing a good job at refining.”

Bai Weng quickly said: “If Young Noble wants to find a cauldron for Shi Hao, I can ask the monarch. He has a collection of good cauldrons so maybe one will be suitable for Shi Hao.”

Li Qiye shook his head and said: “No need, let me pick one.”

Bai Weng immediately knew that a regular cauldron wouldn't earn Li Qiye's grace, so he said: “I am very familiar with the capital and know of several shops with a lot of treasures. Let me lead the way so that Young Noble can pick.”

Shi Hao was startled after hearing the conversation between the other two. With some difficulty, he finally managed to step in and say: “Brother Li, I also want... a cauldron... but I don't have many refined jades.”

Bai Weng couldn't help but smile. He believed that if Li Qiye wasn't paying, he would be happy to do so. Of course, he didn't dare to make a decision before Li Qiye voiced his opinion.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “Don't worry, it is nothing. Leave it to me.”

“But...” Shi Hao didn't know what to say. Li Qiye had given him too many things; not only did Li Qiye teach him pill refinement, he but also took him to the capital. To say that Li Qiye gave him

another chance at life wasn't even close to enough. Shi Hao was a simple fella so he couldn't articulate his gratitude well.

“No buts.” Li Qiye gently tapped Shi Hao's shoulder and said: “You've earned it. If you want to thank me, then keep on working hard on your pill refinement and do not shame me. That would be the greatest thanks, understand?”

Shi Hao took a deep breath while tightly gripping his fists and spoke in the most serious of manners: “Brother Li, rest assured, I will do my best and be diligent!”

At this time, Bai Weng was very envious of Shi Hao. As the proverb says, fortune favors fools. Even if Shi Hao's talents weren't the best, his future would be bright with Li Qiye's tutelage. Bai Weng had seen — with his own eyes — Li Qiye's skill, so Shi Hao would surely become an amazing alchemist in the future.

“Let us go.” Li Qiye told the two and started walking. Shi Hao and Bai Weng quickly followed.

However, the moment the group took a step out from Ancient Pine's mansion, they were stopped. It was a young man blocking Li Qiye's path, someone with a very haughty appearance. He had more than ten disciples behind him.

The young man arrogantly asked: “You are that alchemist named Li, correct?”

Li Qiye didn't bother to look at this type of crowd as he replied: "What if I am?"

The young man sneered: "I heard that you want to compete for the alchemist position? Haha, you better open your eyes so you don't waste time. The candidates to participate in the Alchemy Conference have already been decided, and you have no part in it. Be smart and quickly leave, don't dawdle at the capital."

Li Qiye lazily looked at the young man at this time and asked: "Competition for the alchemist position?"

The young man thought that Li Qiye got the message and sneered: "As long as you know. The capital isn't a place for a human with a dubious origin like you to stay around. It is a dangerous place, so you better be careful or else you'll lose your life. That would be unfortunate."

Although it sounded like a warning, it was clearly a threat towards Li Qiye.

Li Qiye burst out in laughter. Such a threat was not worthy of serious consideration, so he didn't even bother asking who the guy was.

Bai Weng was slightly taken aback by the young man. He was familiar with the people in the capital so he immediately knew the young man's identity after seeing the crest embroidered on his vest.

Bai Weng responded quickly by inserting himself in the middle of the young man and Li Qiye, then he raised his voice and said: “Young Noble Lie Jie, please return. Our Young Noble does not wish to see you.”

Chapter 626: Second Encounter With The Arrogant Girl

The young man immediately sneered, showing a cold and serious glare as he said: “You have some nerve for a servant! If you know who I am, then you should know that it would be nothing for me to end a servant like you. Scram, I have more to say to your master so that he will understand who this capital belongs to!”

If it was before, then Bai Weng would back down, but now was different. He didn’t want Li Qiye to become annoyed and ruin all of their plans.

His expression dimmed as he said with a hardened attitude: “Young Noble Lie Jie, of course I know to whom this place belongs to. It is the territory of Her Majesty, the Demon King! If you have any issues with that, then go talk to the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch about it, but please take your leave right now.” Bai Weng ended with a shooing gesture by swishing his sleeve.

With this gesture, a group of disciples surrounded the young man’s group right away. Among them was Ancient Pine’s oldest disciple who had a great bearing.

The oldest disciple coldly looked at the young man and said: “Young Noble Lie Jie, please go back and do not disturb our Young Noble. If not, then you can’t blame us for any discourteous actions!”

The young man’s expression became ugly at this threat, but

Ancient Pine's disciples outnumbered his so he was at a disadvantage. He coldly glared at Li Qiye standing calmly to the side and deeply scowled.

Eventually, he pretended to be kind and smiled: "The capital is quite unpredictable. Watch out or you'll be caught up in the storm without any help. As someone who lives here year round, I am giving you a friendly reminder that it would be best if you leave the capital." With that, he turned around and left.

Bai Weng was quite unhappy with these threats. After the young man left, Bai Weng apologized to Li Qiye: "Young Noble, this was due to my lacking and I am ready to accept any punishment."

Li Qiye said dismissively: "It was only a little bickering, I am not that pompous."

Bai Weng continued on: "Don't worry, Young Noble, I will report this to the Demon King right away so that the people from the Lie Clan will not dare to cause trouble for Young Noble anymore."

To Bai Weng, Li Qiye was a peerless alchemist and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. If he became unhappy and left, then Bai Weng wouldn't be able to bear the sin.

"More trouble?" Li Qiye laughed out loud and said: "If he wants more trouble, then let him come. I really like it when people come looking for trouble."

It was already a blessing that Li Qiye didn't go cause trouble, but now others wanted to provoke him? They could only be tired of living if that were the case.

Despite this answer, Bai Weng was still worried and reminded him: "Young Noble, that was the young noble of the Lie Clan. This clan is quite influential at the capital since they have a Fire Source; it's quite amazing."

"They have a Fire Source?" Li Qiye was slightly surprised and had to ask for confirmation.

Bai Weng quickly answered: "Yes. The Lie Clan became rich very early on, and they occupied a large piece of land in the middle of the capital. I heard that this was a treasure land with a Fire Source underground. Because of this, for some time now, the Lie Clan always produced amazing cauldrons, so they became quite good at alchemy. They are considered an alchemist clan in the capital."

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile after thinking about the Fire Source under the capital.

Bai Weng continued on: "The truth is that the Lie Clan in the Giant Bamboo Country is not considered a big power; their strength is not as great as a demon monarch's. However, it is worth mentioning that the Lie Clan and the Qing Clan, another alchemy clan in the country, are relatives. Sometimes, even the imperial family has to be cordial to the Qing Clan. Because of this, the Lie Clan became more arrogant from having this backing. But don't worry, this is not a big deal. With one word from Her Majesty, the Lie Clan wouldn't dare to touch Young Noble."

Li Qiye only chuckled and didn't say anything. To him, both the Lie and Qing Clans were only little characters not worthy of further inquiries. If these characters were smart, then they would stay far away from him, lest they suffer his crushing wrath!

Li Qiye, along with Shi Hao and Bai Weng, ventured into the commercial streets of the capital. Li Qiye smiled after seeing the busy avenue.

How many people knew that this prosperous capital was only a barren hill a long time ago? Once upon a time, this was an abandoned land with very few visitors.

It wasn't until a long time later when Li Qiye planted a bamboo tree then collected some life force at this land that people began to migrate here. Then, after some more years, the Giant Bamboo Progenitor established her country and built the capital right here. A big city came from this, protecting the prosperous land inside.

Bai Weng was very familiar with the capital, so he led Li Qiye to several old shops to find a good cauldron for Shi Hao. However, after going to several shops, they still couldn't find a suitable one for him.

During their trip, Bai Weng only acted as the guide and didn't dare to voice his opinion. Li Qiye's alchemy skills far exceeded his, so his vision for picking cauldrons was definitely more qualified as well.

They went to another old shop. Bai Weng left for a while as Li Qiye and Shi Hao looked around in the shop. The owner recommended several decent cauldrons that had great backgrounds, but they also couldn't enter Li Qiye's sight.

As for Shi Hao, he remained silent the whole time. He had limited knowledge as a Junior Alchemist. He felt that an ordinary cauldron was already very good. As for those with great backgrounds, he didn't even dare to imagine owning one. Li Qiye was in complete control during this shopping trip.

After they finished looking around, Bai Weng ran back while being completely out of breath. He quickly spoke to Li Qiye: "Young Noble, I went and asked around. There is an auction at the Golem Square. The first half of this big auction will contain a Heavenly Cauldron. It has already been running for a while now, but I obtained some tickets. Do you want to go and take a look?"

After hearing Bai Weng, the old shop's owner added: "The Golem Square is not only auctioning one cauldron."

When they reached the store, Bai Weng secretly told the owner that Li Qiye was an honored guest of Ancient Pine. Who in the capital didn't know Ancient Pine, one of the eighteen monarchs? Thus, the owner immediately understood that Li Qiye was an extremely esteemed customer.

The owner provided an introduction to the auction: "I heard that the place is auctioning two cauldrons. The first is in the beginning half as the main draw. The second has an unknown origin since the square won't release it to the public. However, people say that

its origin could scare people to death! It is placed at the end of the auction. Only honored guests will be able to participate in this latter half.”

Li Qiye stroked his chin and mused: “Scare people to death, hmm?” He wanted to see just what this cauldron might be.

Bai Weng was good at reading people. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have gone to ask for more information at the Golem Square and obtain an entrance ticket for Li Qiye.

“Do you want to go, Young Noble?” Bai Weng asked.

Li Qiye smiled and answered: “Yes, we should go take a look at this cauldron with the frightening origin.”

The purpose of this trip was to find a cauldron for Shi Hao. The best places to find cauldrons for alchemists were the most dangerous locations.

However, Shi Hao’s cultivation was limited and couldn’t go to these dangerous places, so Li Qiye decided that he would buy a good one for him.

The Golem Square was the biggest auction site in the capital. All the items here were either amazing or had a great origin.

Not just anyone could participate in the Golem Square’s auction. For each of their auctions, they would release a limited amount of

tickets. Only those with tickets were eligible to participate, and only the rich or the powerful were able to obtain these tickets.

It had to be said that Bai Weng was very attentive since it was not easy to grab a ticket from the square in such a short amount of time.

The auction had already started before the group arrived. There were all kinds of strange birds and carriages outside. Just from this sight, it was apparent that all the participants were quite influential.

Not long after their arrival, there was a rumbling in the sky as a carriage trod the sky above and landed at the square.

The carriage stopped and a girl stepped out. The moment she saw Li Qiye, her eyes became sharp like an arrow.

“The road is always narrow for enemies!” The girl coldly said.

Bai Weng was aghast and had quivering legs the moment he saw the crest on the carriage.

Li Qiye heard her voice and turned around to see this girl glaring at him, so he calmly asked: “Who are you? Do I know you?”

Li Qiye’s attitude made the girl tremble with rage. She was the arrogant girl that Li Qiye had met last night. Li Qiye pretending to not know who she was was a bit exaggerated, but he really didn’t

pay her any mind. If he hadn't met her again today, then he would have already forgotten about last night's encounter.

The arrogant girl was even more furious because Li Qiye was acting as if he didn't even remember her. This enraged her even more than when he chose to oppose her!

Chapter 627: Golem Square

Who was she? She came from a noble lineage, a phoenix among women, a heaven's proud daughter on top of having exceptional beauty with countless admirers, including princes and prodigies. In the Alchemy Realm and the Stone Medicine World, many lost sleep thinking about her at night, then they lost their minds upon seeing her, never able to forget her beauty afterward.

Yet last night, this brat again and again chose to oppose her in such a blustering manner. And today, he was even acting like he didn't know who she was!

His attitude humiliated her and made her want to kill him even more than back when he was spewing out cruel and crude words.

Eventually, the prideful girl took a deep breath and contained her urge to kill. If Li Qiye was going to act like a "stranger", then she would also display the most arrogant posture to meet him. With that, she exhibited a noble and out-of-reach demeanor; anyone who saw her at this moment would lower their heads. She was already extremely powerful, so with this arrogant aura, others thought that she was a jewel or a goddess on the moon.

She looked down with contempt at Li Qiye as if he was an ant or an insignificant passerby. After glaring at him, she didn't bother looking at him a second time and turned around to disappear into the Golem Square.

Her oppressive aura caused Bai Weng and Shi Hao to shiver. The

two were not like Li Qiye, so they had to bend their backs as they were unable to withstand her aura.

After she left, they were finally able to heave a sigh of relief. Earlier, they felt as if there was a huge mountain crushing down on them, rendering them breathless. With her departure, they were finally able to see the sun again.

Bai Weng regained his composure while still quivering a bit. Seeing Li Qiye wanting to enter the square, he quickly pulled on Li Qiye's sleeve and asked: "Young Noble, do you know the identity of that lady earlier?"

"Identity?" Li Qiye spoke leisurely since he didn't care too much for these things.

His nonchalant attitude left Bai Weng speechless. He didn't know if Li Qiye was slow or just extremely supercilious.

Bai Weng took a deep breath and whispered: "Young Noble, that little miss was a person from the [Jian](#) Clan. If I am correct, then she is the golden daughter of the Jian Clan."

Jian = Arrow.

"So what?" Li Qiye responded in a carefree manner. He didn't care for the arrogant girl's origin.

"So what...?" Bai Weng couldn't help but raise his tone since he was scared to death.

Shi Hao, on the other hand, stuttered: “That... that... ‘Number One Arrow’... the Jian Clan?”

Bai Weng quickly replied: “How many Jian Clans do we have in the Alchemy Realm outside of the Number One Arrow — the Jian Clan?”

Afterward, he reminded Li Qiye: “Young Noble, the Jian Clan is an imperial lineage created by Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian. It is a renowned and monstrous existence in our Alchemy Realm.”

He was afraid that Li Qiye didn’t know the strength of the Jian Clan and continued on: “Although our Giant Bamboo Country is quite strong, we are far weaker than the Jian Clan. Their influence reaches far and wide and they also have more than ten domains the size of our country.”

“So what?” Li Qiye still uttered the same phrase.

Bai Weng was completely lost. What else could he say if Li Qiye didn’t even put the Jian Clan in his eyes? Li Qiye then continued on without a care: “Okay, ignore that Jian Clan, we can enter now.”

Not caring didn’t mean that he didn’t know about the Jian Clan. With amazing power, Immortal Emperor [Diyi Jian](#), alone, created this clan in the Alchemy Realm.

Diyi Jian = Number One Arrow.

The emperor was a mixed-blood golem. At a young age, he was adept at using the bow and used it to test his dao. Eventually, he became an Immortal Emperor shouldering the Heaven's Will.

The art of the bow and arrow was quite rare among true experts, but the emperor actually reached the apex using such a style. This was indicative of how amazing he was, so his title, 'Number One Arrow', was true to reality. During the era where the emperor reigned with his unbeatable arrow, there was a legend that he used just one arrow to kill an immortal. Of course, this was only a legend and no one knew whether it was true or not.

Li Qiye, Bai Weng, and Shi Hao entered the Golem Square. The first half of the auction was almost over, and the featured treasure finally came out.

A Heavenly Cauldron was carried into the room. It resembled a Vermillion Bird standing on one foot with its mouth opened towards the sky. One could feel hot air blowing about violently as if the cauldron contained the most tyrannical flame in this world.

"This is a Heavenly Cauldron." The auctioneer introduced after the cauldron was brought out: "It has an amazing origin. It came into being in a distant southern cave in the Alchemy Realm that housed a Heavenly Flame. Its Fire Source is one of the fiercest of them all — the Vermillion Divine Flame!"

Because the Stone Medicine World had the most alchemists, a lot of them were present as well. Many of them drew breaths after

hearing this: “The Vermillion Divine Flame!”

This Fire Source was the finest to alchemists, so this cauldron was a true treasure.

Bai Weng was also astonished as he gazed at the cauldron after hearing the announcement. He felt that this was a priceless treasure; if he could obtain such a thing, it would be a satisfaction that lasted for a lifetime.

An alchemist skeptically asked: “Is this real or fake?”

The auctioneer responded in a serious manner: “I swear upon the reputation of the Golem Square. This cauldron was identified by our three alchemists, so the Fire Source of this cauldron is definitely the Vermillion Divine Flame!”

“What is the starting bid?” A young man stood up and asked: “This cauldron will be mine for sure!”

The roads were indeed narrow for enemies. This young man was the descendant of the Lie Clan that blocked Li Qiye’s path early this morning — Lie Jie.

His arrogant attitude was a cause for annoyance, but the Lie Clan had deep pockets. An alchemy clan never lacked money.

“Since everyone likes it so much...” The auctioneer immediately said: “Then we can start. There is no starting bid, feel free to name

your price.”

After Lie Jie heard that any bid was fine, he took the initiative: “I bid 5,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades!”

Another alchemist gave his bid: “I bid 6,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades!”

Another great character from a prestigious clan voiced his interest: “I also bid 6,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades, but they are of the Jewel Sovereign grade.”

In general, when it came to refined jades, jades of the Heavenly Sovereign level meant that they were of the lowest grade — Little Sovereign Refined Jades. Unless further specified, this was true for all the levels; they would start at the lowest grade.

While others were starting a bidding war, Bai Weng asked Li Qiye with a blazing gaze: “How is this Heavenly Cauldron?”

He felt that this was already of the finest grade and was completely suitable for Shi Hao.

Li Qiye only gave it a glance and said: “Not bad.”

“Not bad... only not bad...?” Bai Weng couldn’t help but stutter: “But the Fire Source of... this... cauldron is a Vermillion Divine Flame!”

Bai Weng didn't know what to say to Li Qiye. In his eyes, this was the best of cauldrons, but Li Qiye only said "not bad". This was the gap between the two.

Li Qiye didn't hold any interest for the cauldron before him. It was not worth wasting his time for, so he said: "When are they auctioning the other cauldron?"

Bai Weng arched his chin over to the right and said: "It will be in the second half of the auction over there. Only the most honored guests, those who bought three items from the first half or paid the fee of 8,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades, would be eligible to enter. Of course, honored guests are not required to participate in the first half."

Li Qiye said: "Then we'll wait for the second half, there is nothing to see here." With that, he started walking away.

"But—" Bai Weng was taken aback. However, Li Qiye had already started to walk towards the entrance, so Shi Hao and him quickly ran to catch up.

There were guards beside the entrance of the room where the second half of the auction was taking place. Li Qiye was immediately stopped when he arrived there.

Two guards blocked his path while one of them coldly said: "Friend, please show the Noblest Writ. If you don't have it, then please leave."

“I don’t have one.” Li Qiye leisurely said: “But you guys should be welcoming me inside. This would be an honor for your Golem Square after all.”

Li Qiye was so arrogant that it caused the two guards’ expressions to darken. One coldly spoke: “Are you looking for trouble?”

The other one sneered and said: “You should look at where you are standing before looking for trouble. You are at the wrong place!” With that, his hand stretched towards Li Qiye.

Chapter 628: My Time Is Very Precious

The truth was that this sort of thing was no big deal to the auction house. If it happened, then they would only have to teach the perpetrator a good lesson then kick them out. The Golem Square was quite powerful, so they weren't afraid of anyone.

“Boom!” Li Qiye didn't move at all while the two guards were blown away. With a series of bangs, the two guards shot through several large walls of the auction house before finally reaching the street.

This commotion caused an uproar in the auction room as everyone turned around; some were even startled, and one person shouted: “What is going on?”

The finale of the first half was suddenly stopped. The auctioneer was especially shocked to see such a situation.

At this location, Lie Jie also saw Li Qiye, so he sneered: “So it is that ignorant and suicidal human.”

Dozens of experts from the auction house rushed over to surround Li Qiye's group of three. Bai Weng and Shi Hao were frightened pale and had painful expressions. This was going to be bad.

At this moment, a person who appeared to be the manager walked out with a cold expression full of murderous intent.

The auction was now paused, and many people were looking at Li Qiye. Lie Jie then used this opportunity to fan the flames: “Sovereign Hu, teach this blind boy a lesson! Break his limbs and hang him outside the city walls so that he won’t ever dare to think that the Golem Square is a place for him to show off!”

It was no wonder that Lie Jie hated Li Qiye. He was originally one of the chosen candidates to participate in the Alchemy Conference for the Giant Bamboo Country. Who would have thought that last night, news came that he was temporarily rejected? The Lie Clan asked around and heard some rumors. The problem was because of Li Qiye, so Lie Jie immediately went to cause trouble for him early in the morning.

Lie Jie was happy to see Li Qiye not knowing any better and causing trouble in the Golem Square. This was called ignoring the accepting heavens and barging into the unwelcoming hell!

Manager Hu of the Golem Square stepped in front of Li Qiye. He was called Sovereign Hu because he was a Heavenly Sovereign. An auction house with a manager at this level was quite incredible, and its might was apparent.

Manager Hu spoke coldly: “Friend, if you want to do business, then we very much welcome you. However, if you want to cause trouble, I’m afraid you came to the wrong place.”

Li Qiye relaxedly said: “You are right, I came for business, but those items are not worthy of my consideration so I wanted to go

upstairs for a look. However, it seems that you guys don't want to do business, so if you'll excuse me, I'm not a person who holds back."

Li Qiye's proud attitude caused the auction participants to chatter with each other in a low voice. They wondered where this human came from to act so boisterously in the Golem Square.

Lie Jie sneered and said: "Hahaha, a no-name junior like you still wants to participate in the second half? Give up on this thought, that place isn't meant for poor brats like you. Fool! Daring to cause trouble in the Golem Square? You are tired of living!"

He didn't forget to incite trouble so that the square would teach Li Qiye a good lesson.

Manager Hu's eyes sharpened with killing intent as he said: "Friend, are you purposely causing trouble?"

Li Qiye was too lazy to argue with the manager so he threw out a treasure box and nonchalantly said: "Don't waste my time, tell your superior to come out. The second half is about to start."

Manager Hu caught the box and opened it for a look, then he immediately closed it. Aghast, he held it carefully with both hands and immediately ordered someone standing next to him: "Quick, go invite the ancestor!"

Such a sudden development astounded everyone. It all happened

too quickly because just a second ago, Manager Hu still wanted to teach Li Qiye a lesson.

In a short amount of time, an old man with pure white hair approached. His blood energy was hidden, but him merely standing there gave off the feeling of a mountain's immensity.

Manager Hu quickly gave the old man the box with a serious expression and also whispered in the old man's ear.

After hearing what the manager said, the old man opened the box and was completely shocked. He also quickly closed it.

He bowed his head towards Li Qiye and said: "Our Golem Square's people have eyes but can't see Mt. Tai. This old man is apologizing for any offense that Young Noble might have received. Your arrival at the Golem Square is our honor and allows the square to become much more radiant."

This sudden change left both the buyers and the others in the room stunned, especially those who knew this old man beforehand, they all had to take deep breaths. This old man had a great background and had been renowned since several years ago. With his protection, no one had ever dared to come and mess with the Golem Square.

But now, his respectful attitude towards Li Qiye was simply unbelievable. People were curious and wondered what was inside the box.

Bai Weng and Shi Hao were surprised as well. Just what could be inside the box to cause the square to change its attitude by this much?

Li Qiye said slowly: “Okay, no more nonsense. I came to pick up a couple of things and heard that your auctions have decent items in the second half. Now begin, don’t waste everyone’s time.”

“Of course.” The old man quickly replied then asked Manager Hu: “Manager Hu, how is the first half of the auction?”

Manager Hu answered: “Right now, we are auctioning the featured item, the cauldron. It had just begun.”

The auctioneer added: “The current highest bidder is the Young Noble from the Lie Clan with 16,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades.”

Li Qiye glanced at Lie Jie then told the auctioneer: “I want this cauldron.”

There was already a feud between the two, so after hearing Li Qiye, Lie Jie’s expression sank as he coldly said: “Right now, I am the highest bidder. Since it is an auction, you should follow its rules. Don’t tell me you want to bypass the rules and buy it at a cheap price?”

Li Qiye was too lazy to look at Lie Jie as he spoke: “16,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades?” He told the auctioneer: “I bid

100 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades.”

“100 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades!” Li Qiye’s bid caused quite a stir as everyone stared intensely at him.

Bai Weng and Shi Hao lost their minds as well. These were Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades; they had never seen such a grade before.

Although refined jades could be exchanged, that was only in principle. It was virtually impossible to see such a transaction in reality unless one was exchanging jades of a higher grade for ones of a lower grade, or else it would be at a very unfavorable ratio.

For example, using a Virtuous Paragon Refined Jade to trade for lesser ones such as jades of the Heavenly King or Heavenly Sovereign grade... There would surely be many people who would happily make this deal.

However, if one wanted to use these lower grade jades to exchange for a Virtuous Paragon Refined Jade, it would be very difficult even if they offered a higher price than the market standard.

For cultivators, higher grade refined jades were extremely hard to come by, especially those of the Virtuous Paragon level. Almost all of them were monopolized by monsters such as imperial lineages. Great powers who had Virtuous Paragon jades were either extremely strong or had their ancestors accumulate them over a very long period of time.

Everyone felt that Li Qiye was too outrageous. One hundred Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades to buy a Heavenly Cauldron — what could be crazier than this?

Li Qiye looked at Lie Jie and asked: “Do you still want to bid?”

At this time, Lie Jie’s expression was extremely ugly. Although the Lie Clan was very rich, he couldn’t take out Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. It wouldn’t be easy for his clan either.

Li Qiye lazily said: “Okay, if no one else wants to bid higher, then let it be done.”

Li Qiye’s arrogance left everyone helpless. Many alchemists present also wanted this cauldron, but bidding one hundred Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades or more was too crazy!

“No, no, no.” The old man quickly gave the refined jades back to Li Qiye and said: “If Young Noble wants this Heavenly Cauldron, then we’ll just gift it to you. It is only a little present, it’s not worth anything.”

“Very well.” Li Qiye looked at the old man and said: “Since you have such goodwill, I will sincerely do business with you.”

The old man’s first order of business was to gift the cauldron with a Vermillion Divine Flame Fire Source to Li Qiye. Everyone was astonished; just what was it that made the old man so

generous?

Shi Hao and Bai Weng were scared silly. A cauldron with the value of one hundred Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades was given away with just one phrase; this was too unbelievable. They couldn't understand the life of the rich.

The old man personally led Li Qiye into the place where the second half of the auction was taking place.

It was even more extravagant and luxurious. Each honored guest had their own room where they could clearly see the auction stage.

Here, one could choose to sit on the balcony in the open and feel the atmosphere of the auction. And if they didn't wish to show their face, they could just stay in the room and be out of sight.

The old man led Li Qiye into his private room. When Li Qiye sat down, the Heavenly Cauldron was already packaged.

The old man personally handed it over to Li Qiye and said: "Just a small gift."

"I'll happily accept it then." Li Qiye accepted the cauldron and didn't bother looking at it as he handed it over to Bai Weng, calmly saying: "Bai Weng, you have worked hard as my guide, so this cauldron is for you."

The old man was not surprised at all to see Li Qiye's action. If he

could take out that thing, then it made sense that the cauldron was nothing to him.

However, it was different for Bai Weng. He shivered in shock and stammered: “For... for... me?”

It was the most precious item he had ever received in his life!

Chapter 629: Auction

Li Qiye quite liked Bai Weng. In addition to being an alchemist, his experience and insight were both very rich. Li Qiye had decided that Bai Weng would be the guide for Shi Hao, so he said: “When Shi Hao joins the palace for training later on, he will need you to watch over him.”

“Rest assured, Young Noble, I will take good care of Shi Hao!” Bai Weng solemnly stated his commitment.

At this time, the old man from the square asked Li Qiye again in an earnest manner: “Young Noble, may I check it again?”

With Li Qiye’s permission, the old man unlocked the seal on the box again and observed the item inside with a serious expression. He looked back and forth and even sniffed it as part of a very meticulous process.

Bai Weng and Shi Hao were also curious and wanted to see as well. However, it was blocked by the old man’s hand, so they couldn’t see it.

After finishing his check, the old man respectfully asked: “Will Young Noble sell this to the square, or do you want to auction it?”

“Auction.” Li Qiye said: “I don’t want refined jades, only other items. As long as others have things that can interest me, then I’ll trade. But if not, then if the square has something I like, you guys may have it.”

“I understand.” The old man replied. He didn’t find it strange at all since Li Qiye easily threw out one hundred Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. With such a style, it meant that Li Qiye was not part of the nouveau riche or someone who got lucky with treasures along the way. He must have a great background.

The old man had seen countless people and knew that Li Qiye was as formidable as a dragon hiding in the depths of a swamp.

If Li Qiye didn’t lack refine jades, then only unique treasures would be able to interest him.

The old man guaranteed Li Qiye: “Don’t worry, Young Noble, the Golem Square will not disappoint you. A few ancestors with earth-shattering backgrounds are coming to the auction, and I’m sure they will be interested in your item.”

Shi Hao and Bai Weng were both gasping after hearing this. The old man was referring to ancestors from great powers, and perhaps even those from imperial lineages. This type of character was extremely renowned, people they could never come into contact with.

“That would be good.” Li Qiye calmly said.

At this time, Manager Hu asked: “Ancestor, a few guests still haven’t arrived yet, should we start the second half now?”

The old man looked at Li Qiye then nodded his head and said: “Begin, time is precious. Those who are late will have to miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

Manager Hu obediently bowed and went to carry out the order while the old man carefully put the treasure box away. He told Li Qiye right afterward: “Just let us know if you need anything, Young Noble. I have to go take care of something now.”

Li Qiye nodded his head as the old man took his leave. There were only maids left in the room. A maid brought a tray forward with a plaque on it and told Li Qiye: “Young Noble, this is a token of friendship from our master. It is a ‘Noblest Writ’ from our Golem Square. We hope that you will visit us in the future.”

These writs were only given to Demon Kings and ancestors from the great powers with high status. Those who held these writs were the most esteemed guests of the square; ordinary people could never reach this level.

Bai Weng was very familiar with the capital, so he was shaken to see the square’s writ. In the country, even the eighteen monarchs didn’t have one, only the Demon King did. But now, the square gave Li Qiye one of them — this was being too generous.

Li Qiye didn’t bother looking at it and casually handed it over to Shi Hao.

Shi Hao was stunned since he had never held an item that represented such high status before in his life.

When the auctioneer stepped onto the stage, Li Qiye said as he sat on the balcony: “The auction is about to begin. Let us see what items the square can take out.”

Bai Weng and Shi Hao stood right behind him. This was their first time attending an auction of this level, so they were able to expand their horizons.

There were many private rooms as well as occupied balconies in this auction hall. Some rooms were pitch black with indistinct figures.

In this situation, many liked to show their face while others preferred to be hidden. However, regardless of their preference, they all had great backgrounds and fame.

Bai Weng, standing on the balcony, was able to recognize many big characters with his great knowledge, so he murmured: “Ninefingers Alchemist, the Flowing Water Valley’s Flood Dragon Monarch, the Heavenly Flame Stone-saint, the Giant Stone Royal Lord...”

However, among those on the balconies, there was only one person who Li Qiye was familiar with. A girl as arrogant as a phoenix displaying its fine feathers was in front of everyone.

This was the arrogant girl who had grievances against Li Qiye, the descendant of the Jian Clan — Jian Wushuang!

Jian Wushuang's eyes became cold when she saw Li Qiye sitting on another balcony. She quickly shifted her glance away from this sight that annoyed her; of course she would not act friendly with him.

The auctioneer spoke while standing on the stage: "Honored guests, the auction today formally begins now. This just happens to be our annual auction, so the items this time will surely catch your interest. Our Golem Square wishes for everyone to have a fruitful venture so that you will not feel as if this was a wasted trip."

The first item was brought up. The auctioneer said: "This first item is an appetizer. Since our Stone Medicine World has the highest concentration of alchemists, I'm sure many friends today are high-level alchemists. I'm confident that this first item will please the alchemy crowd."

He then opened a trunk. It was full of purple soil as a violet aura spread out with great energy.

"This is the finest soil to cultivate medicines — Violetheart Mud. It is suitable to grow all types of medicines and grasses, especially the soulgrass variety. Of course, there is no further need to describe its effectiveness. Although it is only one trunk, it is more than enough to grow one root of any medicine that you like. The starting bid for this Violetheart Mud is 30,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades."

An alchemist immediately bidded: “40,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades!”

For alchemists, medicine cultivation was a very deep field of research. All of them wanted to grow the best spirit medicine possible.

Cultivation materials, soil, fertilizer, and the techniques were all extremely important factors. A good medicine might be hard to find, but it was even harder to find good soil. In the world of alchemists, good soil was always sought after, let alone the Stone Medicine World with its strong alchemy background.

“50,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades!” Another big shot named a higher price.

One immediately followed suit: “80,000!”

“100,000!”

After many rounds of bidding, the Violetheart Mud was finally sold for the high price of 800,000 Heavenly Sovereign Refined Jades.

The second item was brought up and introduced by the auctioneer: “The second auction item is a bottle of Longevity Blood. This is the blood of a 2,300,000 year old Longevity Spirit that operates at night. I don’t need to explain the benefits of this Longevity Blood; this is the best of the best, something that all

Heavenly Kings desire. The starting price is 400,000 Heavenly King Refined Jades.”

The moment the introduction was over, many great characters were shaken. In the present times, many Heavenly Kings were in control, but many of them were very old and on the verge of death. Longevity Blood was the main ingredient for creating Longevity Medicines. This bottle was definitely the best for Heavenly Kings of any level.

Suddenly, these big characters in the chamber could no longer sit still and started a fierce bidding war. In the end, this bottle of blood was sold for 3,700,000 Heavenly King Refined Jades.

The next few items were all rare treasures and were sold at exorbitant prices since the majority of the buyers were all big shots. One or two items were sold at unbelievable prices.

During the process, Jian Wushuang was a big spender. Her bids were always much higher than others, giving off the feeling that “this lady has too much money.”

Because of this, people were reluctant to compete with her even if they wanted the item. Moreover, most of the big shots here were from great powers, and some of them were of the ancestor level. However, Jian Wushuang was the golden daughter of the Jian Clan, and the Jian Clan was an imperial lineage. Ordinary people didn’t dare to compete with her while the ancestors didn’t want to compete with a junior like her.

Outside of Jian Wushuang's lavish spending, there was another young man who was also very generous. He raised the price of one item to an outrageous level and bought it without any hesitation, suggesting that he was also not lacking in money.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye didn't bother looking at the items. They were too common for him, so he was too lazy to bid.

Bai Weng and Shi Hao were different, especially Shi Hao since he was still young and inexperienced. Today, all the items before them were supreme treasures. They wouldn't dare to dream of these items before, but now they had the fortune of seeing them in person thanks to Li Qiye bringing them to the second half of the auction.

All the spirit medicines had been auctioned off, so everyone was waiting for the rumored Heavenly Cauldron to appear.

Finally, it was taken out onto the stage. It had the appearance of a tree stump — very archaic looking. It didn't have an oppressive aura, but it had a profound dao intent.

The auctioneer introduced this cauldron: "The next item is this Heavenly Cauldron. The first thing to note is its amazing background; it came from the Alchemy Kingdom."

These words caused the audience to clamor as all eyes gazed intensely at this cauldron.

Chapter 630: Imperial Cauldron

One grand character immediately asked in a serious tone: “A cauldron from the Alchemy Kingdom? Which Alchemy Emperor did this belong to?”

“Dear honored guest, this cauldron was owned by the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor and followed him when the emperor was still young. Anyone who studied the Alchemy Kingdom knows that the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor was one of the greatest regarding plant cultivation since the start of time. His usage of the cauldron was not limited to pill refinement, it contains many benefits regarding growing plants.

“Because of his great skill at cultivating plants, he was called the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor. However, after becoming an emperor, he focused on immortal pill refinement instead, so he thought about switching to a different cauldron. Eventually, he found one that was more suitable for pill refinement, so he exchanged it with the cauldron that he had used for the first half of his life.” The auctioneer was able to provide the history of the cauldron quite well. Surely the Golem Square had spent a lot of effort on this matter.

A Demon King inquired: “If this Heavenly Cauldron belonged to the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor, then why did the Alchemy Kingdom let it be lost in the outside world?”

The Alchemy Kingdom was a behemoth in the Alchemy Realm as well the entire Stone Medicine World. One sect with three emperors — how formidable was this? Not to mention that it even

produced four Alchemy Emperors.

Although Alchemy Emperors were not comparable to Immortal Emperors since they couldn't sweep through the world in an invincible manner, they had a prestigious status and great fame. Since the start of time, both eternal existences and Godkings would need an Alchemy Emperor eventually. Sometimes, even Immortal Emperors would need Alchemy Emperors.

The kingdom's first Immortal Emperor was also its progenitor, Immortal Emperor [Yao Zu](#). He used the dao of alchemy to become an emperor, so he was not only an Immortal Emperor but also an Alchemy Emperor. Thus, he was both the first Immortal Emperor and the top Alchemy Emperor among the four in the Alchemy Kingdom.

Yao Zu = Alchemy Ancestor Immortal Emperor.

Thus beckoning this question: how could such a monster let the cauldron that belonged to the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor be lost to the outside world?

The auctioneer calmly answered: "Honored guests, you can rest assured about this matter. Anything auctioned by our Golem Square definitely has no problems and won't be asked to be returned. However, if everyone is still worried, then I will reveal the true origin of the cauldron."

He paused for a moment before continuing: "After the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor changed his cauldron, he gave his old one to a close friend. This friend treated this cauldron as his family

heirloom for generations. If it wasn't for the fact that the master of the cauldron needed a huge amount of spirit medicines, he wouldn't have been able to bear giving up this treasure."

The auctioneer guaranteed once more: "This cauldron is up for auction, so our Golem Square can guarantee that the Alchemy Kingdom will definitely not ask for it back from whoever wins it!"

The guests couldn't be blamed for showing such concerns. After all, a monster like the Alchemy Kingdom was a source of dread for the other big characters. It would be big trouble if obtaining this cauldron with a dubious origin would provoke the Alchemy Kingdom in any way.

After the guarantee from the square, one person quickly asked: "What is the starting bid for this cauldron?"

The auctioneer answered: "The starting point for this cauldron is 80,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, and each successive bid must be in increments of 10,000. The highest bidder will win."

Many people became dejected after hearing this. Even 80,000 of the lowest grade Virtuous Paragon Refined Jade were still Virtuous Paragon jades after all — something extremely incredible.

How frightening was this starting price? Many big shots here were startled by this price since it already eliminated a lot of the guests without enough money.

The auctioneer continued on: “I won’t expand on the preciousness of a Heavenly Cauldron. We’ll begin now. 80,000 to start, bid!”

Although this price could scare people to death, an alchemist was unperturbed and gave his bid: “90,000!”

The cauldron that belonged to the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor was too tempting. This emperor was quite renowned, after all. Think about it, a cauldron that had been with this emperor for half of his life — how priceless was this?

Despite its monstrous price, many people still desired it: “100,000!”

The arrogant Jian Wushuang raised her voice: “200,000!” She immediately doubled the bid in one go.

In an auction, this type of bidding would surely cause annoyance. Although some bidders were very unhappy with Jian Wushuang, they had to swallow it as they didn’t dare to utter a word. Who would want to mess with the golden daughter of the Jian Clan?

Bai Weng and Shi Hao’s hearts were beating fast from the bidding of hundreds of thousands of Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. They didn’t dare to imagine such a monstrous sum.

Another alchemist bidded: “210,000.”

At this time, the generous young man also called out: “250,000!” He was a golem with a body made out of flesh and blood, but his eyes were a golden color. He had a stout stature that made him seem like a majestic and powerful mountain.

However, Jian Wushuang didn’t bother looking at the young man and raised the bid once more: “500,000!”

Her approach made others gasp helplessly. Whose fault was it that she was so rich? She could afford to raise it to any price!

A Demon King followed along: “510,000!”

The young man was much more cautious compared to Jian Wushuang: “530,000.” It seemed like he didn’t want to offend her.

“1,000,000.” But this time, Li Qiye casually threw out his bid.

His bid caused everyone to jump. The generous young man looked towards Li Qiye, and the same went for Jian Wushuang. She coldly glared at him with a sight that pierced through his very being.

However, despite all the gazes, Li Qiye still leisurely sat there on the balcony. Of course, Bai Weng and Shi Hao were not as calm, their rapidly beating hearts were palpitating and their legs were quivering. Nevertheless, they noticed that Li Qiye was still very relaxed; it was as if his bid wasn’t 1,000,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades and instead just a few dozen coins that he could

afford to throw into a river without a care.

Bai Weng couldn't help but wryly smile. Just imagine, Li Qiye could casually throw out 100 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, then he gave the Vermillion Flame Cauldron to him. At the same time, Li Qiye intended on grooming Shi Hao, so perhaps 1,000,000 refined jades were nothing to him.

“2,000,000.” Jian Wushuang bidded. Her style was still the same, doubling the sum.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't respond to her provocation. However, the generous young man didn't stay silent. Compared to Jian Wushuang with her bottomless pockets, he was a lot more cautious: “2,050,000.” This type of bidding was meant to show his determination to own the cauldron, but at the same time, his intent of not offending Jian Wushuang.

“3,000,000.” Jian Wushuang didn't double the bid this time, but it was still a frightening number.

The remaining bidders simply shut up and didn't dare to bid any longer since they couldn't match Jian Wushuang.

“3,050,000.” The generous young man raised it by 50,000 once more.

However, no one could stop Jian Wushuang's momentum as she continued to raise her bid to an intimidating level: “4,000,000!”

The auction became the playground of the young man and Jian Wushuang.

Her bids made it very difficult for the young man. He had no choice but to stand up and slightly bow down towards her direction: “Goddess Jian, I know you are interested in this cauldron, but you are not an alchemist so you might not need such a cauldron.”

However, Jian Wushuang was always arrogant and never gave anyone face no matter who they were: “Whether I need it or not is none of your business.”

The generous young man was still courteously bowing as he said: “Of course, it is none of my business. But honorable Goddess Jian, this cauldron is very important to me. My Huangfu Clan and the Alchemy Kingdom are in-laws, so now that the kingdom’s cauldron has been lost like this, it makes me, an alchemist, feel very terrible. I want to win this auction and then give it back to the Alchemy Kingdom.

“I hope that Goddess Jian will show magnanimity. As long as you agree to let me have this cauldron, you can ask for anything from me.”

“What? Are you saying that this young lady is coveting something that belongs to you?! Also, this young lady doesn’t lack anything!” Jian Wushuang spoke with an imposing aura. Her arrogance was boundless regardless of her opponent. Although her

attitude was distasteful in the eyes of others, it also showed that she was an arrogant and confident person.

“No, no!” The generous young man understood her personality, so he hurriedly apologized: “That is not what I meant. What I was trying to say is that, in the future, if Goddess Jian has any order, then just say a word and I’ll carry it out right away.”

Her arrogant character loved it the most when people flattered her. She nodded her head and said: “Very well, Huangfu Hao. Today, this young lady will give you some face. If you bid 5,000,000, then I won’t compete with you anymore.”

The young man named Huangfu Hao quickly told the auctioneer: “I bid 5,000,000!”

Although such practices were not compliant with the rules, today, the price of this cauldron was exorbitant already so even the Golem Square chose to turn a blind eye to what had just played out.

Sure enough, Jian Wushuang kept her word and no longer bid after Huangfu Hao raised the price to 5,000,000.

Chapter 631: Money Is One Thing I Don't Lack

The auctioneer declared: “5,000,000! Going once! Does anyone want to bid higher?”

At this time, no one else wanted to bid. Although this cauldron was very amazing, this was a price as high as the heavens, a price that very few people could afford. It was not worth it to utilize all of their wealth just for one cauldron.

Huangfu Hao was relieved to see no one else bidding. With this cauldron, he could earn some favor with the Alchemist Kingdom.

However, before he could finish heaving his sigh of relief, a voice came along: “10,000,000.”

The bidder was Li Qiye, sitting leisurely on his balcony. His calm demeanor rendered others into disbelief; it was hard to imagine that this huge number came out of his mouth.

After naming such a price, Shi Hao and Bai Weng both shivered and felt their knees giving way.

Huangfu Hao wanted to vomit blood from anger. It was a struggle to convince Jian Wushuang to show mercy, but now another troublemaker came out of nowhere. What was even more frustrating was that [this trouble maker](#) doubled the price!

The raw for troublemaker was Cheng Yaojin, a general from the

Tang Dynasty. I believe I've written this footnote before since authors use this expression a lot.

“This... is crazy!” The crowd gasped and was rendered silly. This price was insane! One cauldron was not worth this much.

The buyers, including the big characters on the balconies and the ancestors hiding in the dark, all stared at Li Qiye. Someone who could easily take out 10,000,000 refined jades of this grade must have an earth-shattering background.

At this time, Shi Hao couldn't help but try to convince Li Qiye: “Big Brother, this is... not worth it.” With such a monstrous price, he wouldn't dare to accept it even if Li Qiye bought it for him.

Li Qiye dismissively replied: “It's not a matter of whether it's worth or not. Although I can find another cauldron for you, my time is limited. It is better to buy this one instead of wasting time finding another.”

Items like refined jades were nothing to the current Li Qiye. He had entered the forbidden grounds so his wealth was extremely rich. It could even be said that refined jades were nothing more than a number to him. Only supreme immortal treasures or jewels across the epochs would be able to tempt him.

Huangfu Hao suddenly had the impulse to kill Li Qiye. After struggling to deal with Jian Wushuang, Li Qiye doubling the price made him go crazy.

Huangfu Hao took a deep breath and lowered his tone to declare: “11,000,000!”

At this point, all the buyers present held their breaths and felt that the whole matter was too outrageous. If this cauldron had refined imperial or immortal pills, then it would be worth it. However, legend states that after becoming an Alchemy Emperor, Hundred-grass changed his cauldron. Some even speculated that he had changed it way before his ascension, so it was hard to say whether it had refined imperial pills or not. However, one thing was certain — it had never refined immortal pills.

If a cauldron had refined pills of this level before, then its value would be completely different since its medicinal trove would have incredible changes.

Therefore, in the current situation where it was hard to determine the past level of this cauldron’s refinement, bidding such a high price was a huge gamble.

Li Qiye still smiled and spoke nonchalantly as if he was just stating a mere number: “15,000,000.”

At this point, Shi Hao and Bei Weng could no longer stand as sweat ran down their backs. This price had completely stunned them.

An experienced alchemist couldn’t help but speculate: “This is too crazy. Does he have too much money with no place to spend it or something? In my opinion, I think that if this cauldron had

refined imperial pills before, then it would be worth 20,000,000 at best; no one would pay much more. The Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor swapped out this cauldron early on or very shortly after becoming an emperor. Let's take a step back and pretend that this cauldron had refined imperial pills. Even then, the number of pills would still be very limited — one or two batches at best.”

Everyone knew that although Alchemy Emperors were capable of refining imperial pills, it was still very difficult to find the materials, so the imperial pills they refined throughout their lives were limited. To be able to refine eight to ten batches in the generation of a single Immortal Emperor was already not bad.

As for the cauldrons, the more it refines these types of pills, the better. If it was only one batch, then its potential was also much more limited.

One Demon King from a great power murmured: “Using millions to gamble... Truly insane.”

Even if they went bankrupt in the process, a few great powers wouldn't be able to procure so many Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. Those who were able to do so were extremely rich great powers, and only imperial lineages would be able to easily part with such an amount.

It wasn't just the buyers, even the auctioneer on the platform was drenched with cold sweat. This price had exceeded his imagination.

“You!” Huangfu Hao angrily glared at Li Qiye. 10,000,000 refined jades had already exceeded his budget. Although the Huangfu Clan was very rich, he needed the support of the ancestors to be able to spend so much. Since his intent was to use this cauldron to befriend the Alchemy Kingdom, the ancestors would surely support him. However, the issue was that the price had risen to 15,000,000. Even with the ancestors’ support, he himself would have to spend everything.

Noticing Huangfu Hao’s unfriendly glare, Bai Weng quietly reminded Li Qiye: “Young Noble, Huangfu Hao’s background is quite amazing. He is the oldest son of the Huangfu Clan and also its inheritor. This clan itself has a marriage pact with the Alchemy Kingdom that has been going on for several generations; it could be said that the clan has many relatives in the kingdom, and all of them are great characters in the imperial families. I heard that Huangfu Hao and the current main descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom are also relatives, so his backing is quite formidable.”

Bai Weng’s explanation was indeed on point. With the Alchemy Kingdom as their backing, the Huangfu Clan’s power was quite frightening. Outside of being the oldest and having high talents, another reason why Huangfu Hao was able to become the clan inheritor was due to him being a relative of the Alchemy Kingdom’s current main descendant.

Outsiders couldn’t conclude how close they were. Some said that they were very close while others said that they were quite distant. Nevertheless, this blood-tie was indeed real.

The kingdom had three Immortal Emperors and four Alchemy

Emperors; to be backed by such a monstrous existence, who in the Stone Medicine World would dare to mess with them?

Bai Weng was reminding Li Qiye that it was best not to create animosity with Huangfu Hao.

Li Qiye sat on his balcony and nonchalantly asked: “What does all of that have to do with me?”

Bai Weng didn’t know what else to say. He wasn’t clear whether Li Qiye didn’t get the point or if he was just extremely confident. Very few in this world dared to not put the Huangfu Clan into their sight like this.

Bai Weng took a deep breath and whispered again: “Young Noble, Huangfu Hao himself is quite formidable as well. He is considered the fifth alchemy prodigy and has great talents. If he didn’t spend so much effort on cultivation, then perhaps he would be part of the four. I heard that he had reached the Heavenly King realm for some time, but the more dreadful part is that his golden stone gaze has the same power as his forefathers.”

Bai Weng was only a minor character. If he could take a step back to realize the immensity of the heaven and earth, he would do so, unlike Li Qiye’s more aggressive approach.

Just as he said, Huangfu Hao was indeed strong. He was a golem with an indescribable noble background and a flesh and blood body at birth. However, his eyes remained that of stone; this was a pair of invincible golden stone eyes that could be found from his

forefathers — quite a rare occurrence.

Normally, Atavism would result in the body reverting to stone and becoming weaker. It was very rare that someone undergoing Atavism would inherit their forefathers' strongest bloodline.

“And?” Li Qiye was still as calm as ever.

At this point, Bai Weng knew better and kept his mouth shut. Li Qiye was not a kid that was seeing the world for the first time. His nonchalant attitude regarding Huangfu Hao made Bai Weng think that Li Qiye was even stronger than what he had imagined and that he had underestimated him.

At this time, Huangfu Hao really wanted to kill Li Qiye. His glare towards Li Qiye contained a murderous glint. He took a deep breath and bit his teeth, deciding to risk it all: “16,000,000!”

“That won't do.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “You have to understand that I am no longer bidding with the lowest grade of refined jades. I am bidding 16,000,000 jades of the Rising Era Paragon grade. If you are simply bidding jades of the conventional level, then you have to bid more than 30,000,000.”

When most people talked about Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, they would refer to the lowest grade used by Early Era Paragons. Although both were Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades, one grade's gap was the difference between heaven and earth. One Virtuous Paragon Refined Jade contained an unbelievable amount of worldly energy, so the difference of just a single grade had an

unreachable gap.

Everyone present became dumbstruck after hearing this. One of the Demon Kings stood up and lost his voice: “Refined Jades meant for Rising Era Paragons...? What the hell?!”

Everyone felt that Li Qiye was messing around too much. Normally, people would use the lowest grade for any given level of refined jade unless further specified.

Huangfu Hao became red due to uncontrollable anger. Even if he had the support of the elders, 15,000,000 regular jades alone was pretty much all of his wealth. However, if they were of the Rising Era Paragon level, then even if the Golem Square allowed for him to trade and the buyers agreed to take his Early Era Paragon jades, he would have to spend at least 30,000,000... This was an amount that he simply couldn't afford!

At this point, the auctioneer on the stage couldn't help but wipe the sweat from his forehead. This number was simply too scary.

Chapter 632: Alchemy Fowl

Eventually, with an ugly expression, Huangfu Hao dropped back down onto his chair and gave up on bidding. He couldn't afford such a price anymore, so what else could he do except give up? He could only watch Li Qiye win the Heavenly Cauldron.

“15,000,000 refined jades of the Rising Era Paragon level! Any higher bids?!” On the stage, the excited auctioneer's hand was shaking while holding his wooden gavel.

Who else would dare to bid when the price was already this high? Eventually, the auctioneer slammed his gavel to conclude this round as he spoke with his trembling voice: “15,000,000 Rising Era Paragon Jades! The cauldron belongs to this Young Noble!”

In the end, the buyers could only come to one conclusion: “There are too many lunatics these days...”

One Demon King couldn't help but utter: “There should be a limit to being wasteful. This level of profligate behavior is just unreasonable.”

Only a madman would spend 15,000,000 Rising Era Paragon Jades; this was indeed a supremely prodigal son!

“The next treasure is a weapon from the foreign dao...” Infected by the last auction, the auctioneer's mood was at an all-time high.

In the private room, the workers from the auction house brought the Heavenly Cauldron over. Li Qiye casually handed over a spatial pouch to the workers to pay for the item.

Afterward, he threw the cauldron towards Shi Hao and said: “Keep doing your best. If you want to own this cauldron, you must spend a great deal of effort to harmonize with it. However, as long as you keep working hard, it will eventually accept you. At that point, your achievements in the alchemy dao will be able to reach a much higher level!”

The workers were astounded by Li Qiye’s actions. They had seen many wealthy men and big characters, but spending millions of Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades for a cauldron to casually gift to a friend as if it was mere rubbish... Such extravagance was beyond cure! They had never seen this type of person before.

Shi Hao was shaking with fear. When the cauldron was thrown his way, he quickly jumped to grab it tightly as if he was afraid of dropping it. An item worth millions of refined jades made him afraid of it touching anything at all.

He struggled to calm down and prostrated on the ground while exuding his uncontrollable appreciation: “Big Brother... I... I will definitely not let you down!” He was a simple man. Countless words formed in his mind, but only this phrase left his lips.

Li Qiye nodded and said: “Be diligent. This cauldron is indeed great and has a natural affinity towards medicine. With it in the future, you will gain many benefits when cultivating plants. The more important part is that this cauldron has refined imperial pills

before, so it will increase your pill refinement level by a notch.”

At this point, Shi Hao could only nod his head repeatedly. He didn't know what else to say to express his gratitude while Bai Weng watched on with admiration. Countless alchemists yearned for such a cauldron to no avail. Bai Weng understood that all of this was possible because Li Qiye valued Shi Hao and wanted to train him.

Several auctions went by, and the next item was a living creature.

A fowl was raised to the stage, resulting in quite a dazzling spectacle. It emitted waves of immortal lights along with a medicinal fragrance that caused others to salivate.

An experienced alchemist sniffed the aroma and became lost in his indulgence while murmuring: “Nine Dragon's Saliva Aroma, Dao Wood Profound Aroma, Immortal River Lotus Aroma... How beautiful are these fragrances... So supreme...”

Another famous alchemist stood up in astonishment and stared at the chicken in disbelief as he lost his voice: “Impossible! Could this be a legendary Alchemy Fowl?”

“Sir, you have great insight.” The auctioneer replied: “Correct! This is an Alchemy Fowl! They are extremely rare in this world, and this is our first time auctioning one in the Golem Square in the capital.”

Other great characters could handle it, but the alchemists here could no longer bear it.

“Is it really an Alchemy Fowl?!” They all stood up and gazed intensely at the fowl.

“An Alchemy Fowl!” Bai Weng couldn’t help but shiver while standing next to Li Qiye. He opened his eyes wide and wished to examine every inch of the beast carefully, not wanting to miss even a single feather.

He gasped and said: “So Alchemy Fowls do exist in this world... They are... divine items in the eyes of alchemists... To have one is...”

Bai Weng was at a loss for words since he felt that this was a divine creature. Any alchemist in the world would love to have one.

This prompted Shi Hao’s inquiry: “What kind of chicken is an Alchemy Fowl?” He was still young and didn’t know the effects of an Alchemy Fowl, but after noticing the many astonished alchemists, he knew that this chicken must be very amazing.

Bai Weng’s gaze was still fixated on the chicken as he replied: “It is a long story, but in short, that chicken is everything an alchemist could want.”

Li Qiye was also staring at this chicken along with the others.

Among them, the alchemists were the most affected since the chicken could only be found in their dreams.

The chicken had been sealed, so it sat motionlessly with its head looking down, acting indifferent before everyone. Although it had been captured, it still showcased its arrogance.

The auctioneer quickly spoke: “Alchemy Fowl — I believe that the fellow alchemists here understand this creature more than I do.

“It can eat insect kings, capture poisonous creatures, protect spirit medicines and grasses, and its excrement is the most fertile soil in this world.

“More importantly, its nature is to protect medicines and plants, so it can find materials that others won’t be able to. With one watching your alchemy farm, there would be no need to worry about poisonous insects or anything else. There would also be no need for fertilizing water...”

The auctioneer’s continuous explanation made the alchemists salivate. Even without his explanation, these alchemists would know the amazing effects of the Alchemist Fowl. However, the others present began to want it as well.

An alchemist with great achievements in the past watched the fowl for a bit then asked: “Why does this Alchemy Fowl seem so dejected?”

The auctioneer answered: “Honored guest, you should know how hard it is to capture one of them. After all, these creatures would avoid imprisonment at all cost. In order to capture this one, we had to invite three Virtuous Paragons. This was quite difficult and costly. In order to catch it alive and watch it for year after year, the three paragons chased after it for millions of miles before perfectly sealing it.

“Think about it, to eventually be caught after so much struggling, do you think it would still be excited?”

Everyone felt that this answer made sense. It was harder to capture a divine beast like the Alchemy Fowl alive than it was to reach the heavens. Without three paragons, it would have been virtually impossible to catch the fowl.

The auctioneer patted his chest confidently and said: “Of course, our Golem Square guarantees with our reputation that this fowl is unharmed, so fellow guests can buy it without any worries.”

It wasn’t just alchemists, which lineage didn’t grow medicinal grasses? Therefore, all of these sects would have even more grasses if they had an Alchemy Fowl.

“May I take a look at this Alchemy Fowl?” In fact, it wasn’t only Bai Weng’s group who were interested in the fowl, Li Qiye was staring at the chicken as well.

“Sure.” The auctioneer quickly ordered the handler to place the chicken in Li Qiye’s hands.

A god of riches like Li Qiye, of course, had special privileges. Not too many people were able to throw around money like trash in such a domineering manner like him.

Li Qiye gazed at the chicken for a long time before voicing his praise: “It is indeed a good chicken.” Then, he handed it back to the handler.

The arrogant Jian Wushuang, who was sitting on the balcony of another private room, asked: “Are we about ready to start? What is the starting bid of this Alchemy Fowl?” She seemed to be very interested in the chicken.

The chicken was brought back to the stage whereupon the auctioneer answered: “The starting bid for the Alchemy Fowl is 500,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades!”

“What, 500,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades?!” An honored guest bemoaned: “Are you trying to rob us?”

“Honored guest, this item has great value.” The auctioneer calmly spoke: “Fellow honored guests should all know that there are no Virtuous Paragons among the younger generation, and there are only a few paragons among the middle-aged generation — this is common knowledge. Current day Virtuous Paragons all established themselves 30,000 years ago or even earlier; all of them are ancestors of the great powers.

“This little one doesn’t need to explain the situation of these

ancestors. They are sealed underground and secluded from the world. Think about it, in order to invite three Virtuous Paragons to come out and give chase for millions of miles just to catch this Alchemy Fowl, fellow guests should be able to imagine the monstrous price we had to pay. Refined jades are precious, but Blood Era Stones are even more valuable, right?”

The guests looked at each other and felt that the auctioneer was being quite reasonable. Inviting three Virtuous Paragons to come out was indeed costly.

However, the starting bid of 500,000 Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades was simply too high. Even the most esteemed guests were immediately swept out of the door by this frightening starting bid.

Chapter 633: Priceless Fowl

One alchemist bit his lips and shouted his bid: “510,000!”

However, this alchemist’s bid was short-lived since Jian Wushuang from the Jian Clan doubled the bid: “1,000,000.”

This type of bidding method made everyone speechless and upset. No one wanted to be a fool by raising the price so much, but what could they do? All the buyers here knew the background of this arrogant girl, so they could only accept it. Who was to blame for her having so much money?

“10,000,000.” However, right after Jian Wushuang’s bid, another explosive bid was made.

The honored guests’ hearts skipped a beat after hearing this bid: “Is he crazy?!”

Everyone looked towards the direction of the bid and found that the person who raised the price to an astronomical amount was Li Qiye.

They were all stunned and had no words to say about this rich baron. Jian Wushuang’s doubling of the price was already hard to accept, but Li Qiye raising it by ten times caused them to lose their minds.

They gazed at each other in amazement. 10,000,000 — this was a

price not too many people in this room could afford.

The auctioneer shivered on the platform and thought that he had misheard, so he had to repeat: “10,000,000?”

He had been doing this for a while, and this was his first time seeing someone raising the price by ten times — this was simply too outrageous!

“Correct, 10,000,000.” Li Qiye nonchalantly replied.

Bai Weng and Shi Hao felt helpless as well, but they had already become numb to such a feeling. In the beginning, Li Qiye’s high-bidding style scared them silly, but now, they had gotten used to it.

At this point, Jian Wushuang glared at Li Qiye. It was clear that he wanted to oppose her. After a while, she turned away and arrogantly proclaimed: “20,000,000.”

This was met with Li Qiye’s relaxed tone: “My bad, my refined jades are of the Rising Era Paragon grade.”

Jian Wushuang laughed proudly and retorted: “My refined jades are also of the Rising Era Paragon grade.”

She looked at him again and issued a challenge: “No matter how much money you can put out, I will follow it to the very end.”

She looked as if she had too much money to spend and wanted to kill someone by throwing money at them. Who was to blame for her being the golden daughter of the Jian Clan? Rumor has it that the clan only had one daughter, so how could she not be arrogant?

The buyers, at this time, were completely speechless. Many alchemists lamented their lack of luck, but they knew better and gave up on this competition since they couldn't compare to these two rich fellas.

Li Qiye only gave her a stern glance then shifted his gaze and smiled before slowly speaking: "You really want to follow along to the end? I'll bid 100 Immortal Emperor Refined Jades."

At this time, countless people stood up all at once and exclaimed: "What!? How could anyone be crazier than this?"

Bai Weng and Shi Hao, who were numbed by this, dropped to the ground. Bai Weng was quivering as he stuttered: "Young Master, this... this... these are Immortal Emperor Refined Jades you are talking about!"

One had to know that Immortal Emperor Refined Jades were a thousand, no, ten thousand times more precious than Virtuous Paragon Refined Jades. It was very difficult to obtain them, so since the start of time, their owners were either Immortal Emperors or imperial lineages. Great powers couldn't get their hands on them, unless their ancestors were once loyal to Immortal Emperors and were rewarded with these jades.

“I know.” Li Qiye said with a smile. Li Qiye didn’t only go to the dangerous burial grounds. No one else knew that below the Yin Yang Pond in the golden palace, he hid many supreme treasures and even refined jades. After being around for tens of millions of years, his wealth had reached a monstrous amount. Although grooming the group of Immortal Emperors like Min Ren spent an unbelievable amount of wealth, it also allowed him to regather a monstrous amount as well.

In the past, before his departure, Li Qiye conveniently left behind a bunch of refined jades in the golden palace, but Immortal Emperor Qian Li didn’t use them, so when he came back, he casually took them away.

The buyers felt that this was too outrageous: “Is this necessary? Using Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to trade for an Alchemy Fowl?”

Although the Alchemy Fowl was indeed very valuable, it wasn’t to this degree. Immortal Emperor Refined Jades were extremely rare. A few great powers, after obtaining them, would just hide them away and wouldn’t use them without caution.

But now, Li Qiye was using one hundred Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to trade for this chicken, making others think that he was insane.

“Such... a prodigal son!” Many from the previous generation didn’t know what to say. They had seen many young masters throwing money away like trash, and they also did the same when they were young.

However, compared to Li Qiye, all of these young masters were quite frugal in comparison. He could scare people to death by spending Immortal Emperor Refined Jades like this. Many people had never even seen this kind of jade their whole life and didn't know what they looked like.

Everyone at this scene had their breaths taken away by Li Qiye's frightening bid.

The auctioneer was completely stunned. The Golem Square was quite famous in the Giant Bamboo Country and the Alchemy Realm, ranking among the top five.

And among the auctions he had hosted, the auctioneer could count the times when Immortal Emperor Refined Jades were used with his hands. However, this was his first time seeing someone immediately bidding one hundred of them in an instant.

Amidst the silence, Li Qiye reminded the auctioneer: "If no one else is bidding, then give the three final calls."

The auctioneer regained his composure and quickly called out: "100 Immortal Emperor Refined Jades, going once!"

Jian Wushuang bit her teeth once and deepened her tone to say: "I bid 105 jades, I can pawn a treasure to provide this amount."

The person in charge of the Golem Square quickly said: "If Miss

Jian didn't bring any Immortal Emperor Refined Jades, then you can just write it down as credit; there is no need to pawn anything." He could feel sweat beads dripping down his forehead.

Since Jian Wushuang was the golden daughter of the Jian Clan, the Golem Square allowed her to put it on her credit. An imperial lineage like the Jian Clan wouldn't renege on a payment.

However, she was obviously not confident this time and didn't go about doubling the bid like before. She only added five jades this time.

The truth was that five jades were already scary enough; ordinary people simply couldn't afford this sum.

"200 pieces." Li Qiye, however, threw out this number nonchalantly without even batting an eye.

This time, the doubling of his previous bid finally caused Bai Weng and Shi Hao to directly kneel on the ground. They wanted to scream out: "Boss, these are Immortal Emperor Refined Jades, they're not ordinary jades!"

His bid nearly made Jian Wushuang vomit blood from anger as she sharply glared at him. If they weren't in an auction house right now, she might have already taken care of him.

Li Qiye met her gaze and lazily said: "How high can you go? Just be direct, 1,000 or 10,000?"

His arrogant demeanor enraged her. She had always been arrogant without a care for anyone, but today, Li Qiye had suppressed her pride, so how could she not be furious and burn with an intent to kill?

She sat straight down and didn't say anything, nor did she bid again. Although she was unbridled with her pride, she was not stupid. She couldn't handle Li Qiye's provocation, but she had no choice other than to step down.

Using several hundred or one thousand Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to buy one Alchemy Fowl was too insane. She couldn't spend this many jades for such a creature. As the golden daughter of the Jian Clan, she had always been pampered by her family. They, indeed, had a lot of Immortal Emperor jades, but it wasn't to the point where she could lavishly waste them. Despite her arrogance, she still had a sense of propriety.

"200 Immortal Emperor Refined Jades, going once!" The excited and quivering auctioneer shouted.

Many people were silent. Besides ancestors from imperial lineages, very few could afford to pay this amount.

Eventually, the auctioneer slammed his gavel as Li Qiye spent 200 Immortal Emperor Refined Jades for one Alchemy Fowl. The silent buyers had two separate trains of thoughts. Some of them believed that Li Qiye was crazy while others said that he was the most prodigal son in this world...

Bai Weng stuttered as he asked Li Qiye: “Young Master, was this... worth it?”

Li Qiye only smiled, and others didn’t see the nuances in the matter. The others believed that he was being wasteful, but he himself felt that it was completely worth it.

Several other treasures were brought up afterward, but no one bid as crazily as Li Qiye. Jian Wushuang scored two treasures among them.

Li Qiye no longer bid. Although these treasures were not bad, they were not worth him taking action.

“It is my honor to introduce the next treasure, a rock left behind by Immortal Emperor [Wan Shi](#).”

Wan Shi = Mischievous/Stubborn Era Immortal Emperor.

After hearing this, one buyer voiced his concern: “I thought the Golem Square was going to place this rock as the last item of the auction?”

The auctioneer answered: “Honored guest, excuse us, but there was a sudden change. The next item will be the featured item, so this rock could only be considered second to last.”

This stirred up the buyers. Prior to this, many honored guests had a list of the items up for auction, but now, there was a sudden

change. Such an occurrence was quite rare. This would only happen if this last item had an even more intimidating background!

Chapter 634: Immortal Emperor Wan Shi's Rock

After seeing that no one else was talking, the auctioneer cleared his throat and said: "This rock was left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi. Many of you are golems, so I don't need to introduce Immortal Emperor Wan Shi too much."

"Something left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi!" Some buyers were startled after hearing this.

Immortal Emperor Wan Shi was the first emperor of the golem race. He dated back to the Desolate Era and could be considered one of the oldest emperors. His background was up for debate, but many of the future generations believed that he hailed from the golem race.

Those who held this view believed that Immortal Emperor Wan Shi once stated that he used to be a rock, so the future generations believed that the emperor sensed the heaven and earth and eventually gained life.

However, many questioned this view because his background was still muddy. He was a mystery among the emperors. They only knew that he used to be a rock, but his exact origin and sect were unclear.

However, one irrefutable claim was that the golem race had considered him to be their first Immortal Emperor. When he was still of this world, he did not deny this claim.

As one of the oldest emperors and the first of the golem race, Immortal Emperor Wan Shi did not leave behind a lineage. During his era, he suddenly disappeared one day, and no one knew why.

The auctioneer went on: “Everyone knows that the emperor didn’t leave behind a lineage, but he himself left behind a rock. Legend states that his inheritance might lie in this rock, and whether there was only one rock or not is up for debate. However, our square guarantees that this rock was indeed left behind by the emperor.”

At this time, the rock was placed on a tray. It was very ordinary looking; if it wasn’t for the fact that this was an auction of the Golem Square, everyone would think that it was a random pebble picked up from the streets.

One of the buyers asked: “How can one be certain that this rock was something left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi?”

The person in charge of the square didn’t say much and instead pressed down on the rock. It was as if his finger penetrated through the rock.

“Whoosh!” In an instant, the rock emitted a brilliant light as waves of imperial aura exploded. The ordinary rock was as vast as a sea. The man then withdrew his hand, and the light disappeared as the rock regained its ordinary appearance.

All the buyers took deep breaths. The moment the power of the

imperial aura exploded, they all knew that this rock was certainly something left behind by an emperor.

One person couldn't contain his excitement and asked: "What is the starting bid for this rock?"

All the capable buyers were trying to prepare themselves mentally. Such a treasure would definitely have a frightening price. This was also why some ancestors came to the Golem Square; it was just for this treasure!

"This time, it will be an exchange." The auctioneer answered: "The owner of this item does not need refined jades, he only wants ointments or divine restoration medicines. The owner is here at this moment, so if honored guests have any great restoration medicines, just take them out. As long as the owner needs it, the rock will belong to you."

Everyone gasped silently in response. To trade something left behind by an emperor to cure a wound, just how terrible could this wound be?

A few wounds went beyond physical ailments. Some of them left behind eternal and incurable damages, and only sacred medicines of a heaven-defying level would be able to cure them.

However, using medicines to trade for a rock of this level caused all the alchemists to be very excited because this was within their domain.

One alchemist stood up and called out his item: “I have here a Hundred-Injuries Powder, it’s my own unique mix...”

A voice came out from a private room: “The level of Hundred-Injuries Powder is too low.”

No one could see who was inside the dark room, but it was surely the owner of the rock. He interrupted the alchemist since he needed a better ointment for his injury.

A Stone King stood up and said: “My sect has a Spirit Serpent Curegrass with a 1,000,000 year old spirit. It can cure injuries of a Virtuous Paragon...”

The owner interjected again: “I have already eaten a 3,000,000 year old Spirit Serpent Curegrass, and it was completely ineffective. Next.”

Huangfu Hao from the Huangfu Clan spoke: “My clan has a small bottle of Soulrending Immortal Powder. There’s not a lot but there is enough for one application.”

An alchemist was shaken after hearing this name: “The Soulrending Immortal Powder is a supreme medicine of the Alchemy Kingdom.”

This powder was very famous in the Stone Medicine World, and ordinary people couldn’t obtain it. If the Huangfu Clan didn’t have an in-law relationship with the Alchemy Kingdom, it wouldn’t

ever have the chance to obtain some.

“This supreme medicine of the Alchemy Kingdom...” The owner pondered for a moment and said: “It would be effective, but one bottle won’t do. If you have a pot full of it, then I would trade with you.”

After hearing this, everyone present had to gasp. Clearly, the owner had used Soulrending Immortal Powder before. Anyone who could use such a medicine must have a frightening background. Just how terrible was his wound?

Huangfu Hao sat down dejectedly. He would never be able to gather an entire pot’s worth. The clan struggled just to obtain one small bottle. Outside of a great character from the Alchemy Kingdom’s imperial family, who would be able to have so much?

“I have a box of Sacred Jade Curewater...”

“I have a Soulreturning Clayflower...”

Momentarily, many alchemists reported their items, but all were denied by the owner. Surely he was mortally injured. The ointments mentioned by these alchemists had stunning effects, but the owner did not need any of them since they couldn’t cure his injury.

While the others were offering their items, Li Qiye sealed the

space around him and put five petals of the Immortal Injury Peony into a box.

Meanwhile, the buyers' medicines were all denied by the owner. Eventually, no one could take out something better than what had already been mentioned.

The owner was slightly disappointed and gently sighed: "If anyone has a way to introduce me to a High Elder of the Alchemy Kingdom so that I can trade for Soulrending Immortal Powder, then I will reward them."

The owner's wound was taking a turn for the worse and needed sacred medicines to cure it. However, the buyers' sacred medicines were not things the owner needed, so he had to make this deal.

The participants glanced at each other. It was easier said than done to gain an audience with the royal family of the Alchemy Kingdom. They all turned towards Huangfu Hao. If there was someone here who could gain an audience, then it would be him and him alone.

Huangfu Hao could only show a bitter smile. How could it be easy to be acquainted with a High Elder from the imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom? Even an ordinary Virtuous Paragon wouldn't be able to gain an audience.

At this time, Li Qiye gave the box that contained the petals from the Immortal Injury Peony to a worker of the square: "I have a little something here. Show the guest and see if he needs it."

Many suddenly looked towards Li Qiye's direction; they were very curious about what was in the box. Twice in a row, Li Qiye acted extremely generously, so it was hard for him not to attract attention at this moment.

The worker brought the box to the other room right away. Afterward, the owner's exclamation came from the room: "This thing actually exists in this world?"

His shout caused everyone to look at each other then back at Li Qiye as they tried to guess his background. With such a frightening style of bidding on top of having a supreme restoration medicine, just who could this young man be? Could he be from an imperial lineage or the progeny of an Alchemy Emperor?

However, both of these types of people would be famous in the Stone Medicine World, yet Li Qiye was a nobody where no one knew his identity.

From the private room came the voice of the owner: "If this Young Noble is willing, I agree to trade with you."

The owner was very anxious since he needed Li Qiye's items. Although it was only five petals from the Immortal Injury Peony, it was already a supreme Immortal Medicine capable of curing all wounds. Since it was called an Immortal Medicine and was capable of even curing Li Qiye's fatal injuries, other wounds would definitely not be an issue.

“Deal.” Li Qiye said with a smile.

At this point, everyone was curious to know what Li Qiye traded to the owner. What could be even more valuable than Soulrending Immortal Powder? They worked their brains to the limit but couldn’t think of a better ointment than the powder.

While the other buyers were both shocked and lost in speculation, the auctioneer spoke: “Very well, the next item is also the last, the ultimate finale. Honored guests, let us come together to end this auction in a magnificent manner!”

Everyone became even more attentive. The rock left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi was supposed to be the finale, but now it had to give up its spot. They were curious to see the item that caused something left behind by an emperor to lose its spot.

On the other hand, Li Qiye, who was sitting on the balcony, was very relaxed and calm. He, of course, knew what the next item would be since he had asked the Golem Square to auction it for him.

The item being auctioned was being carried onto the stage under countless gazes. The tray had an item that looked like a sweet potato. One couldn’t see what was special about this ordinary looking thing.

Chapter 635: Longevity Fruit

Big shots like Demon Kings and Stone Kings looked at each other in confusion. However, the Golem Square had a gold-studded reputation and wouldn't auction ordinary items.

One Demon King curiously asked the auctioneer: "What is this thing?"

"This little one is not exaggerating, this item is truly rare." The auctioneer explained: "I'm afraid not too many people here today know about it. This is our Golem Square's first time seeing this thing, and the second time our boss has seen it."

One Stone King lost his patience and urged: "Okay, don't keep us guessing, just tell us what it is."

The auctioneer smiled and said: "This is an incredible King Medicine, and it could even be called an Immortal Medicine! Fellow great alchemists, please take a careful look. You will be able to recognize it immediately."

Eventually, one alchemist as old as a fossil stood up. His clouded eyes opened up wide as he emotionally stuttered: "No...! Can... this be the legendary Longevity Fruit?"

"What! Longevity Fruit?" The speculation of this old alchemist left the venue in shock.

All the other alchemists stood up and focused their eyes for a better look.

One alchemist whispered: “Longevity Fruit — although it is a fruit, the fruit appears at the area of its roots. With the shape of a potato, it has a shade of purple in the dark...”

He then lost his voice and shouted: “This really is the legendary Longevity Fruit!”

After hearing the confirmation, the ancestors hiding in their private rooms all cried out: “Longevity Fruit!”

Inside these dark rooms came burning bright glares.

“Elder Li’s vision is quite keen, truly worthy of being a renowned alchemist in our Alchemy Realm.”

The auctioneer praised the old alchemist who was the first to recognize the fruit: “Fellow guests, this is correct, this is indeed a Longevity Fruit.”

One old alchemist emotionally muttered: “Longevity Fruit... I have been an alchemist for five thousand years, but this is my first time seeing one.”

The auctioneer said: “Fellow guests, a Longevity Fruit has one root and two fruits; this is one of the two fruits. Our Golem Square is auctioning this in place of its owner.”

All the buyers were breathless, especially the ancestors from the great powers. Just prior to this was the Difficult Dao Era, so new Virtuous Paragon didn't appear. Thus, all the current Virtuous Paragons ancestors were those who had slept for tens of thousands of years or even longer. They relied on Blood Era Stones to seal themselves deep underground for their slumber.

These characters had limited lifespans. A few of them were even on the verge of dying and didn't want to come into being until the very last moment. They desired medicines that could prolong their life more than anyone else. Influential great powers, especially imperial lineages, tried their best to buy these longevity items for their ancestors.

Although these Longevity Medicines had exorbitant prices, they were the most common form of life prolongment and had always been greatly sought after.

Imperial ancestors ate these medicines like meals, but it was not an everlasting panacea. Eventually, the ancestors would keep using them until the effects diminished to the point where they would have to find rarer spirit grasses and immortal medicines to prolong their lives.

The auctioneer spoke unceasingly: "Fellow guests, I know that there will always be someone in need of this Longevity Fruit. In fact, even if fellow guests do not need it, you can still buy it as a gift for your elders. It would be an amazing and filial offering..."

The auctioneer talked and talked, but the buyers were mesmerized by the Longevity Fruit so they didn't mind his constant ramblings. This fruit was far too rare, so just looking at it a bit longer was a fortune in and of itself.

In fact, the Golem Square was working to increase the impact of this matter. The auctioning of an item like this Longevity Fruit was prohibitively rare since owners of them would normally never put them up for sale.

If the square had the ability to auction such an item, then its prestige would rise substantially and it would have even more customers in the future. This Longevity Fruit would become a source of fame to them, so they even waived the usual entrance fee.

“Honored guests!” The auctioneer finally arrived at the main point: “Our boss has personally appraised it, this fruit can increase one's lifespan by six hundred years!”

“Six hundred years!” The ancestors could no longer sit still, and all the buyers felt their hearts beating faster. Everyone present had one or two elders or an ancestor back in their clan. Nothing could be better if they could give this fruit to their ancestor.

It was incredible to prolong a Virtuous Paragon's life by six hundred years. They could continue to be buried underground for a much longer time. To a lineage, if an ancestor ate this fruit, they would be able to contribute much more to the sect and could come into being several times later in the future.

“That’s right, this is not an Immortal Medicine but, in fact, is even better than one.” The auctioneer concluded: “Regardless of how many Longevity Medicines your ancestors has taken or what level they have reached, as long as they are not an Immortal Emperor or the highest level of Godking, this fruit would absolutely be able to increase their lifespan by six hundred years! Of course, ancestors who had taken this fruit before would have diminishing effects, but I trust that the ancestors in the Stone Medicine World that have tasted this fruit before can be counted on one’s hand.”

Cultivators of different realms used different Longevity Medicines. As for the extent of life prolongment, it would depend on each person’s circumstances.

However, the Longevity Fruit neither cared for levels nor was affected by the previous usage of other Longevity Medicines, it would always increase one’s lifespan by six hundred years. This was a precious length of time for a near-death big shot.

In fact, just as the auctioneer had stated, those who had tasted this supreme and rare fruit in the Stone Medicine World were exceedingly few in number.

While the buyers were drawn in by the fruit, Bai Weng glanced at Li Qiye. At this time, he understood what Li Qiye had brought to the Golem Square. He took a deep breath at this point and wondered for a bit. If Li Qiye could take out even a Longevity Fruit, then what does the Giant Bamboo Country have to attract him? Right now, it was not Li Qiye asking the country to allow him

to stay, it was the country begging for him to stay!

Shi Hao, on the other hand, didn't think too much about it. He only curiously stared at the supreme Longevity Fruit.

As for Li Qiye, only a smile could be found on his face. The Longevity Fruit was something plucked from the lost garden of the immortals by him and Lan Yunzhu. The two of them managed to grab many King Medicines.

Since the start of time, only around three people had made it to the lost garden. King Medicines were as common as vegetables in this garden, so one could imagine how many Li Qiye had plucked. Others wouldn't dare to dream about Immortal Medicines like the Ancestor Ginseng, but Li Qiye had quite a few of them.

The Longevity Fruit was something Li Qiye casually took out since he wanted to see if the Golem Square had something worthy of his attention.

The Longevity Fruit had two stems, so Li Qiye took the fruit with the younger spirit and kept the other fruit capable of prolonging one's life by eight hundred years.

While the others didn't mind continuing to look at the fruit, one ancestor from a great power eventually voiced his question as he could no longer stand waiting: "How will you sell this Longevity Fruit? What is the starting bid?"

The auctioneer replied: “This fruit is being auctioned for an esteemed guest. This guest does not need refined jades, so he will only trade item for items.”

All the buyers here were well-versed in this style of exchange. Someone who could take out a Longevity Fruit wouldn’t give a damn about ordinary refined jades. The type of person who could produce supreme treasures would only trade with items.

The auctioneer said: “The esteemed guest is here as well. Everyone will only need to take out an item. After half a minute, if the owner does not ask for it, then we’ll move on to a different person.”

The moment these words came out, all the buyers quickly planned ahead. Some did an inventory check on their treasures to see if there was anything that could tempt this mysterious owner.

A bit later, the auctioneer slammed his gavel and proclaimed in a serious manner: “Very well, let the auction begin. Anyone can bid now!”

An ancestor in a dark room started with his bid: “I am willing to trade a Divine Monarch’s Life Treasure for this Longevity Fruit.”

This offer startled many others. Divine Monarchs were true experts among Virtuous Paragons since they were eternal existences. A person who could take out such a treasure must be an incredible character.

However, a treasure of the Divine Monarch level couldn't get into Li Qiye's sight, so he didn't bother looking at it.

Since the owner didn't answer, the Virtuous Paragon could only sigh.

Before another ancestor could name his price, an older alchemist seized the opportunity and said: "I will use my clan's alchemy scripture to trade for this fruit! My Nanhu Clan is renowned for its alchemy even in the Alchemy Realm!"

However, these words went into one ear and escaped from the other. No alchemy scripture could compare to the canon in Li Qiye's possession.

The alchemist laughed wryly after not getting a reply. He understood that the owner didn't like his clan inheritance.

In a different room, another ancestor spoke at this time: "I have a Saint Physique Law for the Diamond Saint Physique. I am willing to trade this law for the Longevity Fruit."

But of course, this item also couldn't pique Li Qiye's interest since no law in the present times could compare to his Physique Law.

Chapter 636: Mysterious Wooden Horse

“I have a Lifesaving Order Writ from the Jianlong Clan. As long as you have this writ, no matter where you are or what danger you are facing, the Jianlong Clan will do their best to guarantee your safety.” Another hidden ancestor spoke.

These words shocked everyone. The Jianlong Clan was a monstrous existence, the only existence comparable to the Alchemy Kingdom in the Stone Medicine World. With its protection, one wouldn't have to worry about offending anyone. However, this writ also couldn't tempt Li Qiye.

The arrogant Jian Wushuang stood up and spoke in a serious tone: “I will trade a supreme secret technique for the Longevity Fruit.”

Li Qiye didn't budge. In fact, he didn't even open his eyes.

As there was no response from the owner, Jian Wushuang gritted her teeth and lowered her tone once more: “I have three drops of Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood. If the owner is willing, then I will use the supreme technique along with the three blood drops to trade for this fruit.”

Jian Wushuang didn't need the fruit, but she had an elder who really needed it. The rest of the buyers were shocked as they exclaimed: “What?! Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood?”

This was something coveted by everyone due to its peerlessness.

Even imperial lineages might not have some. However, this still was not enough to make Li Qiye open his eyes.

Both Bai Weng and Shi Hao were astounded by these incredible treasures. They had never seen so many ungraspable items before, but now they were revealed as offers.

Bai Weng shuddered and reminded Li Qiye: “That... That is Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood...!”

Li Qiye still didn’t respond, making Bai Weng understand that Li Qiye didn’t care for Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood either. Bai Weng couldn’t help but feel afraid; not caring for such a level of treasure — too domineering!

Jian Wushuang also sat down in frustration after getting no response from the owner. This was her second time being defeated today. The first time was her pride being trampled by Li Qiye. Now, the owner also didn’t react to Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood, so how could she not be frustrated?

The other big shots all listed what they had, resulting in quite a cornucopia of items that included weapons, treasures, King Medicines, and manuals among other things... However, Li Qiye still didn’t bat an eye.

After the other buyers offered their items, one hidden ancestor finally spoke: “I have a little wooden horse.” He was very unwilling, but ultimately, he still mustered his will and made the decision to say: “I can’t say what this little wooden horse can do

right now, but it is something left behind by the Immortal Emperor Patriarch from my clan, a treasure of the utmost importance...”

The ancestor was still quite hesitant and full of remorse, but he really needed the Longevity Fruit: “If the owner is willing, then I will trade this wooden horse for the Longevity Fruit.”

He was afraid that the owner wouldn’t be able to see the horse, so he told the workers from the square to bring a tray over.

This was a very normal tiny horse carved from wood of a gray color — not too eye-catching.

The group stared at the horse, and no one could tell how this was valuable, but this ancestor was able to become an esteemed guest at the square, not to mention that he introduced his patriarch as an Immortal Emperor. Even if outsiders couldn’t guess its background, it would surely not be a scam.

Li Qiye opened his eyes after hearing the words “little wooden horse”. After a while, on the balcony, he told the worker from the square: “Bring that wooden horse here so that I can take a look.”

After hearing this response, the auctioneer immediately told this great power’s ancestor: “The owner agrees to see your little horse.”

“Good! Very good!” The ancestor was in urgent need of the Longevity Fruit. Otherwise, he wouldn’t have offered his Immortal

Emperor's precious treasure to trade for it.

Very quickly, the horse was in Li Qiye's hands. He took a careful look before telling the worker from the square: "I'll agree to this trade."

The auctioneer heard it right away and immediately announced: "I'm relieved to tell everyone some good news; the Longevity Fruit now has a new owner! Its previous owner is willing to trade the fruit for this guest's little wooden horse!"

After this announcement came out, everyone couldn't help but look at each other. Many wanted to know the effects of this horse left behind by an Immortal Emperor.

Unfortunately, they couldn't research this horse at all. Neither the buyer nor the seller wanted to reveal much about this horse, so the curious crowd couldn't obtain an answer.

The auctioneer excitedly slammed his gavel and announced: "Very well, I now announce that this auction has officially ended with great results!"

He was very jubilant. This was the biggest and most surreal auction he had ever hosted. It would leave a bright mark on his career as an auctioneer.

With the end of the auction, those who chose to remain hidden used a special passage to leave; outsiders couldn't see all the

participants.

Meanwhile, since Li Qiye ignored Immortal Emperor Longevity Blood for this little inconspicuous wooden horse, the shocked Bai Weng had to ask: “Is... this worth it?”

Li Qiye smiled and said: “That would depend on the person.”

Bai Weng and Shi Hao couldn't discern the use of this little horse and didn't know what was special about it. Li Qiye didn't tell them either.

After finishing the transaction process with the square, Li Qiye left along with the other two.

Both of them were very happy and excited. It was needless to mention Shi Hao, he obtained a cauldron left behind by the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor, something he wouldn't even dare to dream of before.

Bai Weng also obtained a Vermillion Divine Flame Cauldron. Although it was not comparable to Shi Hao's, this was more than enough for him. At the very least, he wouldn't have been able to buy one like this even if he strived for it for his entire life.

They felt very grateful to Li Qiye for giving them items this precious.

As they left the Golem Square and crossed a couple of streets,

they were suddenly stopped.

The person blocking his path was Lie Jie, the descendant of the Lie Clan. Bai Weng reacted very quickly; the moment Lie Jie went in front of Li Qiye, Bai Weng immediately stopped him.

Bai Weng spoke calmly: “Young Noble Lie Jie, if you have something to say, then say it right here.”

“Dog servant, scram to the side!” Lie Jie coldly shouted with an oppressive momentum. In his eyes, Bai Weng was only a servant.

However, Bai Weng’s status was not low. Although he didn’t come from a prestigious clan, with Ancient Pine as his backing, he was not afraid of Lie Jie if push comes to shove.

Bai Weng beckoned by waving his hand as Ancient Pine’s disciples all gathered and awaited his command. He coldly spoke: “Young Noble Lie Jie, please return. Young Noble Li is an honored guest of the Giant Bamboo Country and is not someone that you can meet at your whim!”

Bai Weng’s attitude enraged Lie Jie. He wished he could rush over and teach Li Qiye and this dog servant a lesson, but he was stopped by Ancient Pine’s disciples.

Lie Jie shouted a threat at Li Qiye: “Brat, listen well! The capital isn’t for an outsider brat like you, having money is nothing! There are countless clans that you can’t afford to offend at the capital.

Know your place and get the hell out now. If not, you won't have a chance to leave the capital with your tail tucked between your legs, you will die without a grave!"

This was the disparity between Lie Jie and Jian Wushuang. Both of them hated and wanted to kill Li Qiye, but Jian Wushuang wouldn't block his path like this with meaningless threats. If she wished to, then she would immediately kill him instead of posturing.

A minor character like Lie Jie was nothing to Li Qiye, but his threat caused Li Qiye to pause. Li Qiye took a look at Lie Jie and slowly spoke: "Lie Clan, right? What kind of trash clan is it? So what if you have a little fire spark? Remember, a Fire Source can destroy your Lie Clan as well as end your life."

Li Qiye then lazily walked away, not bothering to care for a response.

Lie Jie took note of this arrogant retort and angrily shouted: "Hahaha, you think I'm afraid of you? Brat, I dare you to not walk away!"

He didn't have a chance to chase after Li Qiye since Ancient Pine's disciples were blocking his path. Eventually, he stamped the ground exasperatedly and swore that he would teach this little unknown outsider a lesson.

The moment Li Qiye returned to the mansion, the Demon Monarch had already been standing there, waiting, and quickly

ran to greet him. The monarch revealed a wide smile: “Congratulations, Young Noble, for your triumphant return from the Golem Square.”

At this point, the monarch’s attitude was even more respectful, and he became even more humble.

Li Qiye looked at the monarch and smiled: “Your information gathering is quite fast.”

The monarch wryly smiled and said: “I only heard it just now. Young Noble’s grand gesture shocked the four directions; it would be hard to not catch wind of it.”

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t respond.

The monarch rubbed his palms together and said: “Early this morning, I went to meet the other monarchs and couldn’t come with Young Noble, please excuse me.”

His tone then became more serious: “Her Majesty wishes to meet Young Noble, would that be okay?”

“Wait a bit.” With that, Li Qiye went inside.

The monarch stood there on the spot, not knowing what to say. Being summoned by the ruler of the Giant Bamboo Country was an honor, but it was different for Li Qiye since they needed him and not vice versa.

Bai Weng then whispered to the monarch. After hearing the report, the monarch's expression quickly changed.

Chapter 637: Bloodsoul Worm

As Li Qiye made it back to his room, the monarch followed right behind him and busily apologized: “Young Noble, this was all because of my negligence and not personally escorting Young Noble. Rest assured, I guarantee that these people from the Lie Clan will never appear in front of you again.”

After hearing Bai Weng’s report, the monarch thought that Li Qiye was taking his displeasure out on others.

Li Qiye said dismissively: “Such a trivial thing is not worthy of my attention. I pay no mind to insignificant characters like that, so Demon Monarch doesn’t have to worry either. Moreover, in the future, the Lie Clan will not dare to appear before me.”

The monarch was taken aback since he didn’t know what Li Qiye was implying.

While the monarch was dazed, Li Qiye continued on: “Do not worry, Demon Monarch, I will go meet your Royal Lord tomorrow as I am not free right now.”

The monarch calmed down and said goodbye to Li Qiye. He didn’t dare to say anything else that could bother him.

After the monarch left, Li Qiye took out the pentagate to seal the room again and also took out the Alchemy Fowl from the Golem Square.

The chicken emitted a bright light along with a permeating medicinal fragrance; this was indeed a supreme bird. The seal on the chicken's body remained closed as Li Qiye put it on the table for a careful look.

Back at the Golem Square, Li Qiye had taken a look, but now he wanted confirmation. He stared at its eyes then made a decision and took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

“Boom!” It landed next to Li Qiye and, with a wave of his hand, a flame fell to his palm.

The flame slowly condensed into a knife resembling a mysterious piece of ice that emitted the thick aroma of medicine.

Others would be dumbfounded by this scene. Controlling a flame to turn it into a blade was already difficult, but controlling a flame to turn it into ice was even harder!

Li Qiye pushed the chicken down and intended to dissect its stomach: “Little thing, let me see what you have swallowed.”

The Alchemy Fowl struggled in fear, but it couldn't escape.

Li Qiye calmed it down: “Don't worry, my Iceflame Blade contains the essence of an alchemy trove, so even when I cut open your stomach, the wound will recover right away and it won't hurt you. Even if you don't want me to do it, the thing inside your

stomach will make its way out anyway.”

The Alchemy Fowl was no ordinary bird and was fully sentient, so it calmed down after hearing Li Qiye.

He slowly dissected the bird’s stomach with his icy blade. He was as smooth as flowing water; not even a tiny mistake was made. Li Qiye was a master with no peers at dissection.

He found something that resembled a jade block the size of a finger. It was a bit like a seed.

Li Qiye took it out from the chicken’s stomach and said: “Little thing, you were too greedy. You wanted to keep a treasure like this all to yourself.”

“Plufff!” Suddenly, a spurt of blood shot out from the seed. Its velocity was matchless and was even faster than the speed of light as it shot towards Li Qiye, launching for his heart.

However, Li Qiye was prepared from early on and had the lamp in his other hand. The lamp released a black flame that instantly swept over the spurt of blood.

This bloody strand kept on morphing. At times, it resembled countless tentacles as thin as hairs. Other times, it looked like a ferocious face, yet afterward, it also undertook the shape of a holy existence.

This thing that resembled a drop of blood could take on many creepy transformations — this was indeed a terrible monster.

The drop of blood was afraid of the black flame and no longer dared to approach Li Qiye. It hovered in the air as it tested the flame with a thin tentacle. The moment this tentacle got close to the black flame, a sizzling sound appeared as it was burnt to a crisp.

Li Qiye ignored the thing trapped by the black flame and held the seed from the chicken's stomach for a closer inspection.

It was a finger-sized piece of black jade in the shape of a seed. Li Qiye looked at it closely then glanced at the Alchemy Fowl and said: "You were very lucky to meet such a divine item. However, you were too greedy and instantly swallowed it without any consideration. Did you want to become an Immortal Phoenix in one fell swoop?"

"A divine item such as this cannot be hogged by you alone. Even the Bloodsoul Worm coveted it, but it was smarter than you. It only latched onto the item and waited for an amazing bird like you to swallow it."

The Alchemy Fowl relaxed after seeing the blood-like creature entrapped by Li Qiye, but it had an unwilling expression upon seeing the black jade in Li Qiye's hand.

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "You are lucky to have met me. Otherwise, sooner or later, you would have been sucked dry by

the Bloodsoul Worm. It would eventually break out of your stomach and seize this divine item for itself.”

The chicken was full of regret, but it couldn't do anything at this moment. Li Qiye noticed the unwillingness in its eyes and only smiled before speaking: “Don't worry, you can follow me; I will not mistreat you. You should know that a master like me will only appear once across the eons.”

Li Qiye put away the black jade then flicked his hand as the cauldron shot out an ointment needle with a thread of medicine on its end.

One shouldn't underestimate this needle, it is the transformed medicinal trove within the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron and could instantly close a wound. Li Qiye stitched up the chicken, and the wound closed as if nothing had happened.

He then unsealed the chicken, causing it to cry out at its newfound freedom. The chicken stared at the drop of blood that was trapped in the black flame and wanted to pounce over to kill it.

However, it was stopped by Li Qiye as he spoke: “I still have uses for the Bloodsoul Worm.”

He took out a box that contained a black seed full of thorns. This was the seed of the Evil Typha Tree; it had been refined by Li Qiye for a very long time now, so its appearance had greatly changed.

Li Qiye looked at the drop of blood trapped by the black flame. This was not a blood drop, it was a very evil and terrorizing poisonous creature called a Bloodsoul Worm.

It was just as rare as the Alchemy Fowl, and the two creatures were eternal enemies. When both creatures went all out, it would be hard to determine the victor.

Li Qiye waved his sleeve once more as a group of flames from the cauldron fell into his hand. In an instant, this group of flames immediately turned into immemorial icicles.

These icicles started to pin down the Bloodsoul Worm trapped inside the flame. The worm tried to wiggle around, but it couldn't move at all due to being pinned by the icicles.

Li Qiye then placed the worm on top of the Evil Typha Seed as all the thorns on the seed latched onto the worm. The worm struggled, but it was meaningless.

With that, Li Qiye recalled his icicles. How could it just sit there and await its death? The moment the worm was freed, it recklessly crawled into the seed of the Evil Typha Tree, wanting to devour it. However, the Evil Typha Seed didn't back down. It tightened its thorns and tried to swallow the worm as well.

At this time, Li Qiye inserted a universal law as thin as silk into the Evil Typha Seed, giving birth to a maelstrom inside. This boundless magical rune was the culmination of Li Qiye's refinement, and it turned into a maelstrom.

With this refinement, the Bloodsoul Worm and the Evil Typha Seed slowly became one. After a while, the transmutation of the two was finalized. The Evil Typha Seed was no longer black, it was of a crimson color just like blood.

“Excellent, I had thought over this method for a long time now but hadn’t met a suitable evil creature.” Li Qiye looked at the seed in his hand and murmured: “I will create the strongest plant in this world!”

There was no further need to describe the strength of the Evil Typha Tree, and the Bloodsoul Worm was also a frighteningly powerful evil creature. The amalgamation of these two existences would become a wicked and mighty being beyond one’s imagination!

He put the Evil Typha Seed back into the box and sealed it. There would be a day when he would need this powerful existence.

Afterward, he took out the black jade item again for another look: “Good stuff, not too many people have seen this thing since the start of time.”

In the eyes of others, Li Qiye was crazy for spending 200 Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to buy an Alchemy Fowl — only a madman would do so.

However, Li Qiye was far from insane because he noticed that there was something strange about the Alchemy Fowl.

It was not listless because of being sealed, it was because its body had a certain something inside. It swallowed a divine item, but who would have thought that its enemy had been slumbering within? The Bloodsoul Worm and the divine item both crept inside the chicken's body.

The worm was a very evil creature. Once it latched onto an existence, that existence's Longevity Blood would be sucked dry until the worm got its fill. It would then break out of the corpse and come out. Very few people were capable of subduing such a sinister creature.

Because the chicken swallowed the worm and its strength was sapped by the worm, the three Virtuous Paragons were able to capture it.

Li Qiye had rich experience and had seen countless things. After a single glance, Li Qiye immediately knew that the chicken had a Bloodsoul Worm in its body.

Chapter 638: Destruction Of The Lie Clan

Contrary to others' belief that he was crazy, Li Qiye using Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to buy this Alchemy Fowl was a huge profit! Buying three extremely rare and precious things in one breath, what could be better?

Li Qiye observed them for a bit before putting everything away. Then, he tapped on the cauldron next to him and gave a command: "Go. Under the capital is a Fire Source that has been strengthened with a spirit. Although it is not comparable to the supreme flames you have devoured before, this is something created by me and its spirit is not bad. Devour it and deal with some little problems for me on the way."

The cauldron received Li Qiye's command then crawled under the earth and disappeared.

After the monarch left Li Qiye's room, he told Bai Weng to take good care of Li Qiye while he immediately went to visit the Demon King in the palace.

There was a secret conference going on with all of the strongest demon monarchs of the Giant Bamboo Country present.

Ancient Pine spoke: "Your Highness, Young Noble Li didn't want to come to the palace for a meeting."

Madam Zi Yan nodded and said: “I have heard about the Golem Square’s events.”

Another Demon Monarch spoke austerely: “He’s this arrogant? Does he want Her Majesty to go see him herself?”

This was one of the eighteen monarchs, the Eagle Demon Monarch.

Madam Zi Yan shook her head and said: “It’s not his fault. With such amazing pill techniques, he could just utter one word and countless people in the Stone Medicine World would line up to earn his favor. Even imperial lineages would be happy to commission him. Such a peerless alchemist would be well-received anywhere he goes. Not to mention, someone full of treasures like him doesn’t need anything. It is hard to get his interest.”

At this point, she sighed gently and lamented: “Our Giant Bamboo is only a small country. I’m afraid we won’t be able to keep an alchemist like him.”

Ancient Pine couldn’t help but suggest: “How about Your Highness goes to personally meet Young Noble Li? I see that he has some love for our Giant Bamboo Country, so if Your Highness shows up personally, then maybe Young Noble Li will be moved by the sincere gesture.”

Ancient Pine knew that a supreme alchemist with no need for treasures or money like Li Qiye couldn’t be convinced by material objects. They had to use a different method to impress him.

Madam Zi Yan was very open minded and felt that Ancient Pine made a lot of sense: “If Young Noble Li is willing, then I don’t mind making a trip. A peerless alchemist in this generation is worth a personal trip to recruit him.”

Another Demon Monarch voiced his concern: “This... doesn’t feel right. Your Highness is the Royal Lord of our country, how about we go welcome him instead?”

“No.” Madam Zi Yan shook her head and said: “So what if I am a Royal Lord? Every Alchemy Emperor is treated as one’s most esteemed guest, even Immortal Emperors are no exceptions. It is certain that Young Noble Li will become an Alchemy Emperor, so an ordinary Royal Lord like me greeting him personally is how it should be.”

“I wonder if Young Noble Li will be willing to stay or not.” Eagle voiced his musing: “Your Highness needs to have another plan. If we can’t keep him, then Your Highness needs to pick another participant for the conference.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch was somewhat related to the Qing Clan, so he wanted to help them.

Madam Zi Yan nodded and said: “I’ll have made my own decision by that time.”

Another demon monarch said: “Your Majesty, Young Noble Huangfu from the Huangfu Clan is interested...”

The madam quickly interrupted this monarch: “Do not mention this matter again.”

Her imperial prestige made others not dare to look straight ahead. A Demon King was still a Demon King, so Madam Zi Yan’s power was not to be underestimated.

The monarch who brought this issue up immediately shut up and didn’t dare to say anything else.

Madam Zi Yan declared: “Tomorrow, I will personally go greet Young Noble Li. It would be best if he could join the palace for some time.”

The moment she made her decision, a confidant hurriedly rushed in: “Your Highness, Your Highness! Something big has happened!”

Madam Zi Yan noticed the confidant’s urgency, so she grimaced and asked: “What happened that’s causing you to be so anxious?”

The confidant quickly said: “The Lie Clan is finished!”

One demon monarch stood up right away and asked in surprise: “Finished? Finished how?”

Although the Lie Clan was not an invincible clan, it was quite formidable within the capital, not to mention that they were also

the number one alchemy clan in the capital.

It was not easy for such a clan to be finished in such a short amount of time.

The eighteen demon monarchs and Madam Zi Yan were all startled. They knew the Lie Clan still had several living ancestors. Although their ancestors were not comparable to those from the great powers, they were still top ranked experts. With their presence, the Lie Clan shouldn't have fallen so easily.

Another monarch rapidly inquired: "Just what had happened exactly? You need to be more clear."

The confidant answered at once: "It happened not long ago. The Fire Source under the Lie Clan suddenly exploded and blew away their ancestral ground. Their ancestors wanted to suppress the blast but were incinerated by the scorching Fire Source. People said that the Fire Source soared into the sky and rushed into the Lie Clan, killing Lie Jie, the Lie Clan's Young Noble. Our disciples said that the flame penetrated the stone heart of Lie Jie in just one second. Although the rest of his body is still intact, his soul is definitely done for."

After hearing this report, all the monarchs looked at each other. The Lie Clan was known as the number one alchemy clan in the capital for a reason — their Fire Source.

This Fire Source not only helped them by providing great cauldrons, it also made their pill refinement much easier. An

alchemist in the capital had previously proclaimed with disdain: “The Lie Clan’s skill at alchemy is only third-rate at best. They would be nothing without that Fire Source.”

Although these words were quite extreme, there was a hint of truth to them. The Lie Clan’s alchemy dao was not particularly outstanding; they would have been overthrown long ago without the Fire Source.

“The Lie Clan’s prestige and ability to refine great pills were mostly due to this Fire Source.” One Demon Monarch murmured: “If the Fire Source has been destroyed, the Lie Clan will fall into the abyss and will never be able to rise again.”

“Their demise is certain.” An alchemist among the eighteen said: “Their alchemy dao relied on a few old geezers for support. Their younger generation can’t reach the apex. Now that those old men have been burnt to ashes, the slightly excellent Lie Jie had been killed, and most importantly, their Fire Source has been destroyed, the Lie Clan can only withdraw from the alchemy path.”

Madam Zi Yan sat on her throne and pondered for a moment before speaking: “This is quite strange. The Fire Source has been passed down for a long time; the Lie Clan has been guarding it generation after generation. It has always been very stable with its own sentience and is not the type to change or go wild. Why did it explode without any prior warning?”

It was not without reason that Madam Zi Yan was able to become the Royal Lord since she had many outstanding aspects. The moment she received the news, she understood that something

was wrong about it.

The monarchs looked at each other and felt that the madam made sense. Ancient Pine suddenly recalled something and shuddered. He stood up and told the madam: “Your Majesty, I just recalled something. Perhaps it has something to do with this matter.”

Madam Zi Yan quickly urged: “What is it? Tell me.”

The Lie Clan was a big clan in the capital, so their fate left the madam puzzled.

Ancient Pine told the story of how Lie Jie blocked Li Qiye’s path since Bai Weng had reported it to him in great detail. And now, the Lie Clan’s demise reminded him of this matter.

Ancient Pine continued on: “I heard my subordinates say that Young Noble Li had said that the Fire Source of the Lie Clan will definitely be destroyed.”

Madam Zi Yan stood up and asked after hearing this: “Has Young Noble Li left your mansion at all?”

Ancient Pine shook his head in response: “When I left, Young Noble Li was still in the mansion. I believe he didn’t leave at all.”

After hearing this, Madam Zi Yan stood there, quietly thinking.

The Eagle Demon Monarch spoke: “Perhaps this is only a coincidence. It is normal for young people to utter a few words of arrogance.”

“That’s right.” Another monarch added: “The Lie Clan has many experts, not to mention their ancestors. It would be difficult for an outsider to sneak into the Lie Clan without being detected, at least, for those of the younger generation. But in this case, the Lie Clan didn’t seem to notice any outsiders, only their Fire Source’s sudden explosion.”

Madam Zi Yan thought about it a bit more and shook her head: “I’m afraid this matter is not that simple. That Fire Source definitely didn’t explode for no reason since it also killed Lie Jie. The Lie Clan had so many people, so why did this flame only kill Lie Jie alone?”

She was not only a virtuous ruler but also very intelligent. This sparked more questions for the demon monarchs.

The alchemist monarch said: “If this wasn’t an accident, then there are two possibilities. However, these two possibilities are quite unlikely.”

Another demon monarch quickly asked: “Old Sun, don’t keep us guessing. What are the two possibilities? Tell us so we can think about it together.”

The alchemist monarch mused it through a little bit before

speaking: “I have only heard of these two possibilities and have never seen them before. These matters are only in the legends, so it is hard to tell whether they are real or not.”

Madam Zi Yan said: “Demon Monarch, go ahead and say it. Whether it is true or not is not important. At the moment, anything is possible.”

Chapter 639: Still A Legend

The Alchemist Demon Monarch smiled wryly and said: “This might sound a bit absurd, however, there is a legend about an Alchemy Emperor that goes like this: the emperor was able to control both the Fire Source and Fire Spark. Another tale told of him controlling the fire of a Heavenly Tribulation, but yes, this is strictly fictional. It might be possible to control a Fire Spark due to the matchless flame control of Alchemy Emperors. However, controlling a Fire Source is a different story. It is one thing if the Fire Source is above ground, but if it is below, then even an emperor would have a hard time controlling it...

“Controlling the flame of a Heavenly Tribulation is even more outrageous. However, people speculated that this would be possible for an Immortal Emperor who was initially an Alchemy Emperor. For example, [Immortal Emperor Yao Zu](#) of the Alchemy Kingdom might have been able to control the Heavenly Tribulation’s flame, but other Alchemy Emperors won’t be able to. Of course, all of this is just gossip among alchemists and no one is certain of anything.”

Immortal Emperor Yao Zu = Alchemy Ancestor Immortal Emperor.

“What about the other possibility?” Ancient Pine hastily asked. He was the first to find Li Qiye, so he was more anxious than anyone else.

The alchemist monarch went silent for a bit before speaking: “This other possibility is even more difficult to believe. There is a legend in the world of alchemists: there is a Heavenly Cauldron in

this world, one that is even better than the cauldrons of Alchemy Emperors. It is said that this cauldron can devour all the flames in this world as well as any Immortal Medicine. It has an extremely powerful Fire Source, the purest in this world, on top of the best and most unparalleled medicinal trove. In the legends, this cauldron could fly to the sky or maneuver beneath the earth; not only could it control flames, it also devoured countless fire veins. A Fire Source is only a simple meal to it.”

There was a Demon Monarch who didn’t know much about the dao of alchemy, but he understood the untouchable prestige of Alchemy Emperors and how no one had better cauldrons than them: “A Heavenly Cauldron even more perfect than those of Alchemy Emperors? Can such a cauldron exist?”

The alchemist monarch forced a smile and said: “I can’t answer that question since I don’t know either. Legend states that this Heavenly Cauldron had become a god, so it should be called a Divine Heavenly Cauldron. But of course, this is only part of the legend since no one has seen it before, not even Alchemy Emperors.”

“Both are too hard to imagine.” One Demon Monarch shook his head and said: “The contemporary Alchemy Emperor has yet to appear. Although the Nine Worlds do not actively communicate with each other, in my opinion, this generation’s Alchemy Emperor will appear in the Stone Medicine World. There is no hope for the previous generation since their blood energy has withered, resulting in them being unable to pass the final gate. The juniors are still young, so they are far from achieving Alchemy Emperor, but it is even more impossible for the Divine Cauldron to exist.”

Madam Zi Yan pondered for a bit before asking the alchemist: “Does Demon Monarch think that it is possible for Young Noble Li to control the Fire Source remotely?”

The alchemist thought for a moment and then shook his head while smiling to say: “Your Majesty, I am not sure. To tell you the truth, if Ancient Pine Demon Monarch’s descriptions are accurate, then I can firmly say that I have never seen such an alchemist before.”

“Brother Sun, don’t worry. This old man can say with the utmost confidence that every word is true; I guarantee it with my life.”

The alchemist quickly responded: “Brother Ancient Pine is too serious, I never had any doubts regarding your claim. However, this matter is beyond one’s imagination, just like the two possibilities I stated previously. Refining pills like frying beans on top of it being a six transformations fate pill... The truth is that I have never heard or seen such a thing before.”

A different monarch asked: “If Brother Ancient Pine’s words are correct, then what do you think about Young Noble Li’s alchemy skill?”

The alchemist became serious and replied: “I have seen Brother Ancient Pine’s fate pill.” With an austere expression, he continued on: “To be frank, there are only a few people in the present times that are capable of refining such a fate pill. From my personal understanding, ancient alchemists from the Alchemy Kingdom are

capable of performing such a feat. I heard that there are one or two of them, the prime treasures of the kingdom; they have sealed themselves for nearly ten thousand years now and are in deep slumber.”

Madam Zi Yan asked: “If this is true, then how do you think Young Noble Li compares to the four alchemy prodigies?”

“This subordinate has never seen Young Noble Li refine pills, but his dao of the pill... “ The alchemist paused for a second before continuing: “Compared to Young Noble Li, the four alchemy prodigies are very ordinary. Among the four of them, the alchemist from the Alchemy Kingdom is versed in physique pastes, and the descendant of the [Bailian Clan](#) can also be considered to be unbeatable regarding Longevity Medicines.”

Bailian = Hundred Refinements. But hundred is used here as “amazing”.

“The First Prince of the State of Cao specializes in fate pills among the four, and people think that, among the young alchemists, no one could create them better than him. As for the descendant of the Calm Garden, I heard that this person is knowledgeable with plant cultivation.

“I had the fortune to have met the First Prince of Cao and saw him refine pills once. At that time, the stage was sealed so I couldn’t see his method, but the general process proved that he was indeed at the pinnacle of geniuses among young alchemists. Even those of the previous generation would be ashamed to stand before him.

“However, to tell him to refine pills like frying beans would be impossible. Perhaps he would be able to do it when he becomes an Alchemy Emperor, but honestly, even Alchemy Emperors might not be able to accomplish such a task, unless they were refining low-level pills of one or two transformations.”

A monarch stood up and said: “Are you trying to say that Young Noble Li is an Alchemy Emperor?”

“I’m not sure. If Young Noble Li can refine pills this easily, then even if he isn’t one, he is only a step away. In the future, no one else could become the Alchemy Emperor.” The alchemist smiled wryly and said: “If someone asked me the question of who can refine pills like stir-frying veggies, I might not be sure about all the Alchemy Emperors, but one person is certainly capable of this.”

“Who?” Ancient Pine quickly asked.

The alchemist took a deep breath and answered in a respectful and solemn manner: “The Alchemy God, the existence that established the laws of alchemy.”

Anyone would display an extremely respectful attitude when mentioning the Alchemy God, especially at the Stone Medicine World where alchemists thrived the most. The Alchemy God had an unreachable prestige in this place, even higher than Immortal Emperors.

Nothing but respect could be found from alchemists regarding this topic since the Alchemy God had an incomparable status in

their hearts. Without the Alchemy God, there would be no complete dao system for alchemy like the one today. Many Alchemy Emperors appeared since the beginning of time, but outside of the Alchemy God, even the most heaven-defying emperors didn't dare to call themselves an Alchemy God. This was out of respect for the alchemy progenitor.

In the end, Madam Zi Yan told Ancient Pine: "Elder Pine, tomorrow, I will personally go to your mansion to greet Young Noble Li."

She didn't bring up the matter of the Lie Clan anymore. To her and the country, the fate of the Lie Clan was not important. It was only another family in the capital, not one of her subjects.

In the meantime, in Ancient Pine's mansion, Bai Weng received the news about the Lie Clan. He shuddered when he heard that their Fire Source exploded and Lie Jie died a terrible death.

He heard what Li Qiye had said to Lie Jie before, and now, it actually happened, so how could he not be astonished?

Although he hadn't seen Li Qiye take action, he was sure that Li Qiye was the culprit even if he didn't leave the mansion. However, he didn't know how this was possible.

He recognized that Li Qiye was not as harmless as he seemed. Li Qiye was not only a genius at pill refinement and a generous prodigal son that could scare people to death, he was also the ruthless type. He would decisively make a decision without

showing any mercy as he unleashed his thunderous wrath upon his enemies. The Lie Clan was a living example.

The Lie Clan's sudden accident caused a huge stir in the capital. Overnight, some people were happy, some were sad, and others lost sleep throughout the night.

However, none of this had anything to do with Li Qiye since he had a great night's sleep.

In the morning, when Li Qiye woke up, Ancient Pine and Bai Weng had already been waiting outside.

Ancient Pine stepped forward after seeing Li Qiye and respectfully spoke: "Did Young Noble have a good night's rest?"

Li Qiye glanced over at Ancient Pine and smiled: "Demon Monarch can be frank with me, there is no need to beat around the bush."

Ancient Pine awkwardly smiled and rubbed his palms together to say: "Her Highness is here to see Young Noble and is in the main hall right now. Will you meet her?"

Under normal circumstances, outsiders would find this matter hard to believe. The Giant Bamboo Country was still a big country in the Alchemy Realm, and Madam Zi Yan was its Royal Lord. As a Demon King with a Heavenly King cultivation, she would be regarded as a top character no matter where she went.

However, today, Royal Lord Zi Yan personally came early to visit with a sincere and humble attitude — this was quite surprising.

It made sense if she was visiting an ancestor of a great power, but today, she was only seeing a young man, a youth without any fame.

The entire country would be shocked if this were to come out. Just what kind of character was worthy of their Royal Lord's grand treatment?

“If your Royal Lord is here, then I'll see her.” Li Qiye reacted very blandly and smiled.

Bai Weng, who was standing to the side, didn't dare to comment. He knew that anyone else would have felt a sense of honor and pride, but Li Qiye reacted calmly as if this was how it should be. This was indicative of his heaven-defying peerlessness.

Chapter 640: Meeting Again

In the main hall, Madam Zi Yan sat there, waiting, accompanied by seventeen Demon Monarchs. This was quite a grand showing. It could be said that all of the most powerful rulers in the Giant Bamboo Country were here.

Such a showing could only be seen when greeting Virtuous Paragons. Ordinary grand characters would never see such a big gesture.

Initially, Madam Zi Yan wanted to go see him alone, but the other monarchs also wanted to see just what this illustrious person who could refine pills like cooking named Li Qiye looked like, so they followed to add to the fun.

Anyone who had never witnessed such a grand team before would tremble upon seeing a Demon King and seventeen Demon Monarchs together. However, upon his arrival, Li Qiye was still as relaxed and comfortable as ever.

The monarchs were stunned to see Li Qiye since he was completely different from what they had imagined. They assumed that a supreme alchemist with such great pill refinement skill should at least have a floating immortal aura; each of his steps should give birth to lotuses or at least have an imposing momentum.

However, Li Qiye looked quite bland and lacked perceivably excellent qualities. If they didn't know of his skills beforehand,

they wouldn't believe that this ordinary man before them was the famed alchemist.

Madam Zi Yan was also astounded to see Li Qiye since she didn't expect to meet him again in these circumstances.

Li Qiye sat down and glanced around before stopping on Madam Zi Yan, then he grinned.

He laughed when he saw her dazed expression and said in a carefree manner: "Your Majesty, we meet again. It has been a while."

The monarchs were surprised as well as they all looked back at Madam Zi Yan. They didn't expect for their Demon King to have met Li Qiye once already.

Ultimately, she was still a Demon King, so she quickly composed herself and revealed an elegant and noble smile to say: "I also didn't expect that you were Young Noble Li."

So it turned out that Madam Zi Yan was the woman Li Qiye met in the ancient house on the outskirts of the capital on that night! She didn't expect that man who spewed out such arrogant words and was lost in his delusions to be the supreme alchemist, Li Qiye.

In fact, it was not quite a coincidence. That night, Li Qiye went to the ancient house in order to recall his past. As for the madam, she went there whenever there was a big issue to contemplate in

silence, to follow the example of her Matriarch.

“Young Noble’s arrival is our Giant Bamboo’s honor.” The elegant Demon King Zi Yan said: “I am very busy and couldn’t greet you right away, so please excuse the lack of hospitality. Today, we prepared some meager gifts as an apology.”

A servant carried a chest forward. It had yet to be opened, but the immense sound it made when it dropped to the ground showed that the items inside were not ordinary.

Li Qiye didn’t open it for a look, however. The majority of treasures was nothing in his eyes. He only revealed a carefree smile instead: “To meet is to be connected by fate; Your Majesty can be straightforward with me.”

Madam Zi Yan replied: “I heard our Demon Monarch say that Young Noble is interested in being an alchemist of our country — I wonder if this is true?”

Li Qiye smiled and said: “We can talk about the alchemist position later, but I heard Your Majesty needs someone to participate in the Alchemy Conference for the Giant Bamboo Country. I can lend you a hand with this.”

The monarchs glanced at each other, and the madam was shocked as well. No one thought that Li Qiye would agree so readily.

A supreme alchemist was highly sought after no matter where they were in the Stone Medicine World, even imperial lineages were no exception.

One must pay a tremendous sum to invite such an alchemist. Even the Qing Clan negotiated quite a lot with the Giant Bamboo Country just for entering the Alchemy Conference. After all, alchemists were quite popular, especially the young and talented ones.

So now, Li Qiye's swift agreement was outside of everyone's expectations.

However, Madam Zi Yan understood that there was no free meal in this world, so she asked straightforwardly: "May I ask what your wishes are? Or what can the Giant Bamboo Country do to assist you with? If you need anything, just say the word."

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head: "I am not looking down on the Giant Bamboo Country, but this country does not have the things I desire. I trust that Your Majesty is quick with your intel. So, do you feel that I lack treasures or wealth?"

These words were quite arrogant and caused some of the monarchs to be unhappy, but they all admitted that he was only speaking the truth.

Even Madam Zi Yan had to smile bitterly. Spending two hundred Immortal Emperor Refined Jades to buy an Alchemy Fowl... Such a wasteful act was indicative of his riches. Even if the country

mustered up its entire treasury, it would still be very difficult to produce two hundred Immortal Emperor Refined Jades.

Li Qiye alone was capable of throwing out such a sum without a care; he clearly was not short of money. Since even an entire country was not necessarily richer than him, the gap between the two sides was considerable.

Li Qiye smiled and asked: “However, if Your Highness really wants me to provide a condition... This wouldn’t be hard either. I will participate in the Alchemy Conference for the Giant Bamboo Country, but I have a brother who wants to be a court alchemist, what does Your Highness think about this?”

Ancient Pine quietly reported to Madam Zi Yan. After hearing his words, she asked Li Qiye: “Is Young Noble talking about Shi Hao?”

“Correct.” Li Qiye nodded and said: “It is by fate that we’ve met, so although I will not take in a disciple, he has learned a bit of my pill refinement skill. Brother Shi’s clan was once loyal subjects of the Giant Bamboo Country, and he also wants to contribute to the country. I trust that he will be able to do so in the future.”

Madam Zi Yan nodded her head in agreement: “I can’t ask for more regarding this matter. As long as Envoy Shi Hao is willing, the imperial court welcomes his registration at any time.”

The other monarchs were quite ecstatic as well. Since Shi Hao had learned some pill arts from a supreme alchemist like Li Qiye, he would surely become a great talent in the future for the Giant

Bamboo Country.

Li Qiye commanded Bai Weng: “Tell Shi Hao to come meet Her Majesty and the other monarchs.” Li Qiye trained him not just because he valued Shi Hao, it was also to train a talent for the Giant Bamboo Country.

Soon, Bai Weng led Shi Hao into the room. Prior to this, Bai Weng had clearly told him of the situation, but Shi Hao’s legs still shuddered the moment he saw the monarchs and Madam Zi Yan.

All the monarchs were of the Ancient Saint and Heavenly Sovereign realms. Needless to say, Madam Zi Yan was a Heavenly King with even greater prestige. Shi Hao had never encountered such a situation before, so he was quite nervous.

He actually felt that this was all a dream. He had aspirations of reviving his clan, to be a court alchemist one day and slowly rebuild his family. However, these were only dreams buried deep inside his heart since, as a little envoy, he was very far from reaching these aspirations.

Prior to this, he didn’t even dream about meeting Her Majesty, but it was one of his wishes during his youth.

His dream came true too fast and he was not mentally prepared. He stepped inside the room while quivering, clearly having lost his calm.

Seeing Shi Hao's anxiety, Li Qiye encouraged him: "Shi Hao, go greet the monarchs and Her Majesty. Her Majesty has agreed for you to become a court alchemist."

Li Qiye's reminder caused the nervous Shi Hao to calm down. He kneeled down and bowed: "Shi Hao from the Shi Clan greets Your Majesty."

"Rise." Madam Zi Yan accepted his bow and nodded her head: "The Shi Clan from the Calm River County had always been loyal subjects of the Giant Bamboo Country with great contributions. Today, you may enter the court and will bring prestige back to the name Shi."

Shi Hao was still overwhelmed by the swift and sudden realization of his dream. Her Majesty had personally allowed for him to become a court alchemist!

While Shi Hao's mind was still foggy, Bai Weng led him around to meet the other monarchs to fulfill his responsibility as Shi Hao's caretaker.

After greeting all the monarchs, Shi Hao composed himself and prostrated before Li Qiye and emotionally uttered: "Big Brother..."

Countless words ran rampant in his mind, but he didn't know where to start or how to express them. He understood that everything he gained today was because of Li Qiye.

Li Qiye also accepted his prostration and calmly said: “Do your best. It is not difficult to repay me as long as you don’t bring shame to my refinement technique. My pill technique is the best across the eons, so even if you have only learned a little bit, as long as you keep trying hard with diligence, then you will surely become a Legendary Alchemist in the future. I would be disappointed if you couldn’t achieve this.”

His words caused the madam and the monarchs to take deep breaths. What a bold tone, claiming himself to be the best of all time! Even the Alchemy Kingdom wouldn’t dare to make such a bombastic proclamation regarding their pill techniques.

However, such words from Li Qiye’s mouth carried great confidence and calmness as if it was not merely outrageous and ignorant blustering.

Shi Hao took a calming breath and clenched his fists to say: “Big Brother, rest assured, I will definitely not let you down!” He had a new goal in his mind while being full of ambition. He must become a Legendary Alchemist!

Prior to this, he only wanted to become an Alchemy Master to be eligible to join the imperial court.

Chapter 641: Invitation

And now, his goal was to become a Legendary Alchemist. He was able to dream of this due to Li Qiye.

Shi Hao and Bai Weng then took their leave. Shi Hao was still young and inexperienced, so he needed an older alchemist like Bai Weng to keep watch over him in order to avoid detours on his future path.

After the two left, Madam Zi Yan asked Li Qiye: “Since Young Noble is our representative for the Alchemy Conference, is there anything we can do to help prepare?”

“There’s nothing too important.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “However, I am used to being alone and doing my own things, so I hope that during the conference, there will be no accompanying alchemists. That would just be a waste of my time.”

Madam Zi Yan nodded her head and promised: “Don’t worry, Young Noble. As long as you attend the conference, you will be our only participant.”

This guarantee caused the Eagle Demon Monarch’s expression to dim. Prior to this, the Giant Bamboo Country intended to have the Qing Clan’s descendant as a participant, and Eagle was quite familiar with the Qing Clan.

However, he was not unhappy about this at all since it was quite beneficial for the Giant Bamboo Country. It was just that he had

yet to see Li Qiye's true abilities, so there was a thorn in his heart.

“I have no other requests then. Wait until the conference, I trust that the Giant Bamboo Country will return triumphantly.”

After a moment of silence, Madam Zi Yan asked: “I wonder if Young Noble is interested in accepting an alchemy position at the Giant Bamboo?” She truly wanted to keep Li Qiye since anyone would want to recruit such a supreme alchemist. Moreover, she always had a love for talent, so a wise Demon King like her wouldn't give up on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Her invitation caused him to smile and shake his head: “Madam, I am not trying to be arrogant, but if I wanted to seek power, then I wouldn't choose the Giant Bamboo Country. As long as I say the words, I trust that countless imperial lineages will want me. However, if we take a step back and say that I wanted to stay at the Giant Bamboo Country, then you wouldn't be able to handle my condition.”

Others would be unhappy with Li Qiye's arrogant tone, but Madam Zi Yan was a modest person and smiled: “What is your condition? I would like to hear it.”

Li Qiye looked at her and couldn't help but smile back. The Giant Bamboo Country didn't have anything for him to desire. He spoke clearly: “If you really want to hear my condition... I am currently missing a driver by my side, are you interested in this position?”

This was met with immediate displeasure from all the Demon

Monarchs. One of them stepped out and shouted at Li Qiye: “How presumptuous!”

“Young Noble, you went too far.” Even Ancient Pine couldn’t help but stand up and speak for his ruler.

All the monarchs glared at Li Qiye. To them, Li Qiye’s statement just now was humiliating both to their Royal Lord and country.

Although Giant Bamboo was no imperial lineage, it was still a first-class power. It had a considerable status in the Stone Medicine World. Moreover, not to mention that their Demon King was a Heavenly King, she was also extremely beautiful and without a lack of suitors.

In fact, many young prodigies tried to court her. If she so desired, she could have married into an imperial lineage already. However, she let go of her personal matters and focused on the Giant Bamboo Country.

So now, when Li Qiye requested for her to be his driver, how could the other monarchs stand it? This was clearly insulting their Demon King and country.

They were furious, but Madam Zi Yan waved her hand to calm them. She looked at Li Qiye and suddenly remembered the words he said back in the ancient house.

She noticed his calm and nonchalant appearance devoid of any

sign of hubris, but she couldn't tell where he was getting his confidence from.

If a person acting in this manner was not arrogant, it meant that they were strong enough. Others might feel that this type of action was overbearing, but to him, it was natural and not a big deal.

If Li Qiye was the powerful type, then she had failed to see through him — this young man standing in front of her.

Anyone else would instantly be driven insane or would walk away after hearing such humiliating words, but Madam Zi Yan was both humble and understanding as she showed no sign of anger.

She looked at him and slowly spoke: “Young Noble is truly confident.”

Li Qiye smiled and shook his head to say: “The truth is, I selected you because I appreciate Giant Bamboo, and I feel that your personality is not bad. This has nothing to do with confidence. To be frank, when it comes to qualifications, even a descendant of an imperial lineage might not enter my sight.”

The calm Madam Zi Yan inquired further: “Then so to say, Young Noble believes that I should feel honored for being chosen as your driver?”

“You are correct.” Li Qiye flatly replied: “Being a driver for me is indeed an honor. You are a Demon King, a ruler of a country, so

what will your future accomplishments be? At best, you will stop at Virtuous Paragon. Will you be able to earn divine bestowment? As for Godking, this is far beyond your reach.”

His response stunned her. She was indeed aspiring to become a Virtuous Paragon, but obtaining a divine title was too difficult for her, and the title of Godking was basically impossible.

It was not due to a lack of confidence, but rather, a deep understanding of her capabilities. Since the start of time, which Godking had not been heaven-defying? Those who gave themselves the title are excluded from this, but real Godkings were all apex existences and not far off from Immortal Emperors.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “If you become my driver, then your figure will be there as we hover over myriad races. When my carriage departs, myriad races will prostrate and Immortal Emperors will come to greet us. If you stay next to my side and accept some of my pointers, you will gain boundless benefits for the future!”

“What a big tone.” The Eagle Demon Monarch unhappily snorted by the side.

Li Qiye still smiled without batting an eye and continued: “It is fine if you don’t believe me. I am only speaking the truth.”

And this was indeed the truth. For tens of millions of years, Li Qiye’s drivers all enjoyed illustrious fame. Even if they were not Godkings, they were still able to sweep through the Nine Worlds.

The weak were not eligible to become his driver. Keep in mind that back when Li Qiye's carriage was on the move, there used to be Immortal Emperors who came to greet him, thus his driver had to be extremely strong to be worthy of this role.

Madam Zi Yan waved her sleeve to prevent the Eagle Demon Monarch from speaking any further. She only sighed and didn't say anything else.

Li Qiye cheerfully said: "Of course, I won't force the unwilling. You can go back and think it over."

Madam Zi Yan didn't say anything else. This request was indeed too unreasonable for her.

Seeing the tense atmosphere, the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch rubbed his palms and changed the subject: "Hahahaha! There is nothing to worry about since Young Noble Li has agreed to represent us at the conference this time."

"Young Noble is a supreme alchemist with unprecedented skill at pill refinement." The Eagle Demon Monarch spoke at this time: "Recently, I've been trying to find an alchemist but was unable to find a suitable one. I wonder if you are interested in making me one cauldron? As long as you name the price, I will be able to satisfy your demand."

Eagle's words caused all the demon monarchs to stare at Li Qiye, and Madam Zi Yan was no exception.

Although Ancient Pine had recalled Li Qiye's pill refinement process and they did not doubt him, there would be a sense of unrest looming in their minds until they saw it with their own eyes.

“Is this a test?” Li Qiye smilingly asked.

Ancient Pine stepped in to smooth things over and said: “It is a misunderstanding, Young Noble. The Eagle Demon Monarch had also gathered a lot of ingredients but hasn't been able to find the right alchemist, so today, when he met such a matchless one such as yourself, he couldn't help but ask...”

Li Qiye interrupted Ancient Pine. He didn't look at the Eagle Demon Monarch but straight at Madam Zi Yan to say: “I don't care for this test or whatever. Since Madam Zi Yan showed sincerity and I quite like her as well, if I don't show a bit of skill, then she won't be able to rest easy. Very well, I will demonstrate my ability, but there is no challenge with fate pills. Let us raise the difficulty or else it will be very boring.”

The other monarchs couldn't help but glance at each other. This fella was too outrageous! Fate pills are no challenge to him? Many alchemists struggled to refine them since they were a benchmark for alchemists.

But now, Li Qiye was saying that fate pill refinement was not enough to reach the apex.

The alchemist among them spoke: “If Young Noble is interested,

I have some ingredients here. They are part of my family's ointment powder recipe. Although it is not a supreme recipe or anything, it is still quite famous.”

The other monarchs took a deep breath since refining such a thing would be impossible for Li Qiye.

Recipes for physique pastes, longevity medicines, and fate pills were all public for alchemists in the world. However, it was different for ointments. Every ointment, such as this type of powder, all had their unique characteristics and unique process of creation.

Chapter 642: Matchless Dao Of Alchemy

Although there were public recipes for ointments circulating in the Nine Worlds, their effects were quite limited. Only the secret and exclusive recipes had powerful effects; some could even revive the dead!

Outside of the owners, no outsider was able to create these types of ointments. Even if they had the same amount of ingredients, outsiders wouldn't know when to insert a particular ingredient or what the correct level of heat is.

“Brother Sun, this... is a bit unsuitable for this circumstance.”

This challenge was too difficult; anyone with a sliver of common sense would know that this was impossible. How could an outsider refine special ointments?

“Bring it here.” Li Qiye calmly told the alchemist monarch without batting an eye.

The alchemist didn't dare to believe his own ears. He only said it to make it difficult for Li Qiye and wanted to attack his arrogant attitude earlier. It was quite inappropriate of Li Qiye to ask their Demon King to be his driver, so the alchemist resorted to mentioning this impossible task. Who would have thought that Li Qiye would actually agree?

The alchemist skeptically handed the ingredients over to Li Qiye.

Li Qiye looked at the batch of ingredients before him and laughed. Afterward, he sniffed the medicinal fragrances. There were dozens of types of ingredients, but Li Qiye immediately knew what they were as well as their medicinal properties and method of refinement after a quick whiff.

This task couldn't trouble Li Qiye. For millions of years, Li Qiye had tried many different recipes, especially during the era of the Alchemy God. The two of them had crafted and attempted countless recipes.

Later on through the endless river of time, Li Qiye experimented even more and had taught many alchemists.

Although the alchemist monarch's recipe wasn't his own unique mix, Li Qiye knew how to refine it since he understood the properties of the ingredients.

With regards to alchemy, no one would dare to refute Li Qiye if they knew any better, at least, in the present era.

Madam Zi Yan and the other monarchs watched Li Qiye with bated breaths. Ancient Pine had told them of Li Qiye's pill refinement process and how heaven-defying it was.

They all felt that if he indeed had such marvelous abilities, then he would for sure be above the four current alchemy prodigies of the Stone Medicine World. They held high hopes for him, so if he failed, then they would be very dejected.

After inhaling the medicinal scents, Li Qiye took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

“Boom!” As it landed, Li Qiye controlled the Fire Source inside the cauldron to spew out its hottest flame. This incomparable flame could melt everything in the world, even divine metals.

When the flame poured out from the cauldron, Madam Zi Yan and the other monarchs couldn’t handle the terrifying heat and had to back up.

This hottest flame suddenly turned into a pot that resembled a tea kettle, giving off a very substantial vibe as if it was real. The entire kettle was red from the scorching heat.

Li Qiye threw all the ingredients into the kettle where they instantly melted a second later.

The alchemist monarch was stunned: “What kind of refinement is this?!” He felt that this was going too far.

The other monarchs who weren’t alchemists and Madam Zi Yan were shocked as well. As cultivators from the Stone Medicine World, they all knew a thing or two about the common procedures of creating pills and ointments.

These things couldn’t be created by just throwing the ingredients inside all at once and refine them together. Most of the time, it had

to be in a specific order in order to not diminish the medicinal properties of the ingredients.

But now, Li Qiye was foregoing all of that for his own method, resulting in them becoming dumbfounded.

“Zsshh!” Right when the group was stunned, the monstrous fire in the pot suddenly liquefied and submerged the ingredients as if it was boiling water.

Everything happened all too fast. Right when the flame turned into water, it receded as fast as the tide and immediately extracted all the essences from each of the ingredients.

What was even more terrifying was that all of the extracted essences quickly paired together at an incredible speed. Even the [Goddess Weaver](#)’s dexterous hands would not be able to match this speed.

A Goddess Weaver representing the star Vega, a goddess in Chinese ancient mythology. Her job is to weave the clouds and love; protect women and children. She is popular throughout Asia and has many differing versions of her tales. The Jade Emperor has a daughter named Zhinü (simplified Chinese: 织女; traditional Chinese: 織女; pinyin: zhī nǚ or Chih’nü, literally: weaver girl). She is most often represented as responsible for weaving colorful clouds in the heavens. In some versions, she is the Goddess Weaver, daughter of the Jade Emperor, and the Celestial Queen Mother who weaves the Silver River (known in the West as the Milky Way), which gives light to heaven and earth. In other versions, she is a seamstress who works for the Jade Emperor.

The quick pairings between ingredients were fearsome, such as the Red Scorpion's venom combining with the liquid extract of Yin Snakegrass. Under the kettle's flame, the two essences intertwined and melted to instantly take shape.

These changes would normally take days, yet all of them were now transformed in an instant.

"Xshh!" The extremely hot flame quickly swept through the liquefied medicinal essences and tempered it into a solid.

"Pop!" The flame disappeared along with the kettle pot, leaving behind only a packet of ointment skillfully wrapped by Li Qiye using alchemy paper. He then put away the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron.

Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan and the eighteen monarchs stood there, frozen.

In theory, an alchemist would either leave or not allow outsiders to witness them in action, lest their techniques be stolen. However, Li Qiye didn't make this request. Even when the group witnessed — with their own eyes — Li Qiye's method, they were unable to replicate it since they were completely staggered by the process.

From the introduction of the ingredients till the formation of the ointment, it all happened way too fast, lasting only a few seconds. It was much shorter than the time it took to boil a pot of tea.

They had never seen this method of ointment creation before. The alchemist monarch was especially stunned. This was his family's recipe and others definitely didn't have it, so they shouldn't be able to create this ointment.

And even if it was possible to create it, it shouldn't have been this fast.

The monarch was one of the strongest alchemists in his clan, but it would take him at least one day to create this special recipe. Those less skilled in his clan would require at least three days.

But now, Li Qiye did it with just a swing of his hand — this was completely astonishing to them. Both the speed and how he did it without knowing the recipe left them aghast.

Inside the alchemy wrapping, the ointment slowly hardened. Li Qiye then gently covered it with his palm before handing the wrapped up ointment to the alchemist: "Take it."

The alchemist monarch took a deep breath in his attempt to calm down after seeing this. Li Qiye's little action was the last important procedure after wrapping up the special formula. Without this procedure, the effect of the ointment would be greatly affected.

Thus, how could the alchemist not be shocked when Li Qiye knew of this action? If he didn't believe in his own clan, he would have suspected that Li Qiye had stolen the formula even though he knew that this was impossible.

While everyone else slowly calmed down, the alchemist took his time opening the wrapped up ointment.

Everyone looked over to examine the ointment resting on top of his palm. The alchemist quickly became pale after seeing the ointment and had to take several steps back: “How... How... could this be? This... is of the best quality! All the impurities are gone. This ointment, once applied to the wound, would quickly permeate into the body and heal the injury instantly!” The alchemist was frightened to the point where he eventually dropped down to the ground.

Another monarch was also aghast after seeing the ointment. A different monarch praised right away: “What a great ointment, it is several times better than the one Brother Sun gave to me.”

“It’s not just several times better...” The alchemist sitting on the floor acted as if he had seen a ghost. After a while, he managed to regain his wits and smiled wryly to say: “No one can create this ointment at this quality outside of our progenitor. There is a legend in my clan: if we refine our clan’s ointment to the ultimate limit, then it can almost compare to the Soulrending Immortal Powder of the Alchemy Kingdom and would be much better than many of the contemporary ointments.”

At this point, the alchemist paused for a second and exclaimed in both excitement and disbelief: “Prior to this, I had always thought that it was impossible, but I can now see that it is indeed true... So, so... amazing.”

The others responded with gasps. The Soulrending Immortal

Powder was a famous ointment exclusive to the Alchemy Kingdom. Countless big characters didn't mind throwing away their wealth just to ask for a little bit of Soulrending Immortal Powder.

Not only was Li Qiye's ointment of the highest quality, the process was also too frightening.

At this point, everyone was speechless from shock. This was not Ancient Pine's first time watching Li Qiye performing alchemy, but he was still shaken despite being mentally prepared.

Chapter 643: Dao Of The Ointment

At this time, Madam Zi Yan and all the other Demon Monarchs truly understood what Ancient Pine had said before — compared to Li Qiye, the four alchemy prodigies are nothing, as common as the clouds in the sky.

The truth was that it wasn't just the four prodigies, the majority of the contemporary alchemists, including Legendary Alchemists from the previous generation, were not comparable to Li Qiye.

All of them felt that him becoming the Alchemy Emperor was certain since no one could touch him. As long as he remained alive in this world, his alchemy throne would be assured.

Eventually, the alchemist monarch looked at Li Qiye in disbelief and stammered: “How... can this be? Our clan's ointment formula... We definitely didn't expose it to outsiders... so how... did you know?”

He couldn't believe it. He absolutely wouldn't believe this if he had heard it, but alas, he had seen it with his own eyes. Not even in his wildest dreams would he expect his secret formula to be refined by an outsider using a method that even their clan couldn't replicate. Even their progenitor who created this formula couldn't perform his method.

“There is no need for me to know it.” Li Qiye answered with a smile.

The alchemist monarch shockingly said: “Im... possible. How could you refine and temper it if you didn’t know the formula?”

The rest of the crowd stared at Li Qiye. They weren’t alchemists, but they knew about the common laws of the alchemy dao since they were cultivators of the Stone Medicine World.

One absolutely wouldn’t be able to refine ointments without the formula — this was the most basic of all rules. Everyone knew about it.

“Is that so? But that only applies to others and not me.” Li Qiye nonchalantly said: “Whether it is purifying Longevity Medicines, refining Fate Pills or tempering ointments, the crux of all these processes is to extract their essences and utilize their effects. As long as you know all the medicinal properties, you would be able to uncover the effects of the individual ingredients once mixed together.

“For example, with your ointment, there is Crimson Scorpion’s venom and Yin Snakegrass, so the venom has to match the grass. The combination of the essences from these two things will be able to stop bleeding and reconnect broken bones. In order to temper these two together, you need a powerful flame. Among the rest of these ingredients, you also have Inner-Cold Stone; this type of stone is best when burned to harmonize the two essences previously stated...” Li Qiye took his time to explain his process.

The most profound and complex alchemy dao became easy to understand as if it was an ordinary matter when it came from Li Qiye’s mouth.

He was able to describe — in detail — each of the reasonings behind the medicinal effects from the ingredients to an unbelievable extent.

The eighteen monarchs and Madam Zi Yan became astonished after listening to his explanation as they stood there, frozen. Even those who weren't alchemists could understand and realize how frightening Li Qiye was.

He looked at the frozen bunch and lightly said: "For any kind of pills and creations, in principle, we are not the ones who create them, and neither are the recipes. We only manage to recognize the formulas because the alchemy foundation has always existed, it is only that the world had yet to discover its magical effects."

The group continued to be speechless. It didn't matter whether they were the arrogant type or not, at this moment, they were truly convinced. They were shaken by Li Qiye's skill in the dao of alchemy and felt that no one in the world could compete with him in this regard.

In the end, the alchemist monarch said while still slumped: "My life... I've wasted my life studying... I didn't even know the basics..."

This alchemist monarch could be said to be the most skillful among the loyal subjects of the Giant Bamboo Country, and others called him the number one Demon Monarch alchemist. But today, he felt that his knowledge and skill regarding the alchemy dao that

he accumulated throughout his entire life was not worth mentioning. The young man before him, Li Qiye, was a vast ocean while he was only a drop of water.

A drop of water was indescribably insignificant compared to the vast sea.

Today, Li Qiye had shattered his confidence since he felt that he didn't even manage to grasp the basics of the alchemy dao. Several other demon monarchs slumped as well and understood how frightening Li Qiye's skill was.

A while later, Madam Zi Yan shuddered and calmed down, then she asked: "Young Noble Li, may I ask how long you have been studying the dao of alchemy for?"

"How long you say?" Li Qiye shook his head and said: "I do not know, but I can say that pill refinement is only a hobby for me to relax in my spare time."

"Hob... by?" Even a Demon King like Madam Zi Yan nearly choked after hearing this. She was not the only one since something similar occurred to the eighteen monarchs.

"Only a hobby?" One monarch even wanted to prostrate out of disbelief. This was not just a literary expression.

Li Qiye's answer sounded awfully pretentious, but since he had such abilities, no one thought that he was just bragging.

Unfortunately, it had the effect of causing the alchemist monarch to want to slam his head into a wall to commit suicide. This was only a hobby? A hobby yet he could already become an Alchemy Emperor? Then those other alchemists who spent their whole life on this path should just die already. Could he at least show some mercy to those who couldn't become an Alchemy Emperor despite striving for it throughout their entire life?

At this moment, all of them finally had their doubts erased and no longer felt that Li Qiye was being too arrogant. They decided to leave and, compared to earlier, the monarchs were much more respectful. Alchemists had a great status in the Stone Medicine World, and Li Qiye's ability was comparable to an Alchemy Emperor, so how could they not be respectful?

Before leaving, Madam Zi Yan invited Li Qiye: "How about Young Noble Li come stay at the palace for a couple of days?"

She felt that he was a supreme alchemist and hoped that she could keep him here.

Li Qiye immediately rejected: "No need, I am quite comfortable here."

Madam Zi Yan didn't dwell on the issue after Li Qiye declined. Before leaving, she also told Ancient Pine to take great care of Li Qiye and ensure that nothing happened.

The next day, Madam Zi Yan started another conference in the palace with all eighteen Demon Monarchs.

She commenced the conference: “Today’s topic is Young Noble Li. Fellow Monarchs may state your opinions.”

The eighteen looked at each other and weren’t sure of what to say. One of them began: “Your Highness, we must keep a great alchemist like Young Noble Li at all costs. If we could have an Alchemy Emperor, then who in the Stone Medicine World wouldn’t respect us in the future?”

Madam Zi Yan only forced a smile and gently sighed: “What can we do to keep him here? A future Alchemy Emperor — this noble role is beyond words. What do we have to make him stay?”

The eighteen monarchs were silent. Indeed, an Alchemy Emperor, a priceless treasure, would be adored no matter the generation. Even imperial lineages would beg for one to stay.

“It is already quite good that Young Noble Li agreed to participate in the conference for us.” Madam Zi Yan lamented. It was not from a lack of confidence, but an Alchemy Emperor was simply too highly sought after.

“Shi Hao is a good place to start since Young Noble Li seems to value him a lot.” The Eagle Demon Monarch deepened his tone.

Another monarch spoke: “What the Eagle Demon Monarch said makes sense. Even if we can’t keep him here, we can invite him to the Giant Bamboo Country even if it’s only in name. Then, we’ll still greatly benefit.”

“Even if it is only titular, what do we use to tempt him?” Ancient Pine said: “In my opinion, very few things are capable of doing so. It seems that nothing can enter his eyes.”

Ancient Pine’s words were not unreasonable. Back in the Golem Square, Li Qiye threw out Immortal Emperor Refined Jades; a person who could do so would not lack divine weapons or immortal items. And even if these types of items could tempt him, the Giant Bamboo Country did not possess such things.

A Demon Monarch suddenly remembered something and said: “Oh... We do have something. This item might be something all alchemists crave.”

Madam Zi Yan’s eyes became serious and slowly asked: “Demon Monarch is talking about the legendary Immortal Nectar?”

“Yes!” This Demon Monarch replied: “I heard that even Alchemy Emperors from the Alchemy Kingdom wanted our Giant Bamboo’s Immortal Nectar. Maybe this nectar will be able to tempt Young Noble Li.”

Chapter 644: Legendary Immortal Nectar

“Our Immortal Nectar...” Madam Zi Yan smiled wryly before looking at the eighteen monarchs and asked: “Has any Demon Monarch seen our Immortal Nectar before?”

This was met with silence since they only knew about it as part of a legend, a tale that told about the supreme treasure of the Giant Bamboo Country — the Immortal Nectar. However, this was strictly folklore since none had seen it before.

Generations of Royal Lords did not believe in this legend or the nectar’s existence. This doubt was not surprising at all since seeing was believing.

The monarchs were silent, not knowing what to say, and Madam Zi Yan was no exception. This mythical nectar was rumored to be extremely amazing.

In fact, Madam Zi Yan didn’t know whether to believe in its existence or not since there were formal records in the palace that verified its existence. However, its location and the method to obtain it remained unknown. As the Royal Lord, she had read many records but couldn’t find a clue of its whereabouts.

“This Immortal Nectar...” Another Demon Monarch bitterly laughed: “Who knows if this elixir truly exists or not. Since none of us have seen it before, it would be very difficult to convince Young Noble Li by using such an impalpable item.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch spoke austerely: “Not necessarily. Although people said that many had searched all over our country to no avail, there is still one location that remains untouched.”

All the monarchs glanced at each other upon hearing this. Ancient Pine deepened his tone to say: “Brother Eagle is referring to the Bamboo Garden?”

“Correct! The Bamboo Garden! If our country does indeed have this Immortal Nectar, then it is probably inside the Bamboo Garden.” Eagle answered.

A different monarch shook his head and said: “Only the heavens will know. Who has ever been to the Bamboo Garden before? Take a step back and pretend that it is in there, it would still only be [like flowers in the mirror and the moon on the water’s surface.](#)”

It is right in front of you, but you cannot seize it.

All the monarchs nodded their heads in agreement. This was indeed the case; after many generations, no disciple from the country had been to the Bamboo Garden.

It was a sacred and forbidden ground of the country. It was an extremely old garden behind the imperial palace where the huge bamboo took root.

Behind it was also the Elegant Azure Mountains, a very beneficial location. Even to the present day, this huge bamboo was the Giant Bamboo’s Divine Guardian, thus the country was named after it. However, no one had ever been able to enter this garden outside of

the country's progenitor.

No matter how powerful the future disciples were, they couldn't enter the garden, not even Virtuous Paragons.

There were many rumors about the Bamboo Garden. One of them was that this bamboo came from the Immortal World and was personally planted in this place by a deity. After the deity planted it, he also sealed the surrounding garden of this tree. This immortal bamboo grew bigger and bigger as it became even more powerful. Eventually, it took on its present size and finally became a deity.

The seal of the Bamboo Garden didn't weaken and instead became even more powerful after the bamboo became a deity. No one could approach it and outsiders didn't know of the reason.

"It doesn't matter how hard it is to enter." The Eagle Demon Monarch said: "For tens of millions of years, countless alchemists have been interested in our Immortal Nectar, and even Alchemy Emperors were no exceptions. As an alchemist, maybe Young Noble Li will also be interested in our Immortal Nectar. If we promise him this legendary nectar, then maybe he will agree to stay. Whether he can enter the garden or not is his own business. However, if he is able to do so, then it would still be beneficial for our country."

The monarchs pondered on this matter once more. The Eagle Demon Monarch's method was to pass the ball over to Li Qiye since the country itself didn't know where the nectar was.

Madam Zi Yan pondered for a bit as well and said: “It is not a bad suggestion.” However, she shook her head afterward and continued on: “But it is trickery and we of the Giant Bamboo Country shouldn’t resort to such a thing.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch quickly replied: “Your Majesty, this cannot be considered trickery. We are only promising him the nectar. As long as he can get to it, he can have as much as he wants.”

All the other monarchs were moved by this scheme since, if it was successful, the country would gain an Alchemy Emperor!

However, Madam Zi Yan still rejected the idea: “No, we will not carry this out. Whether Young Noble Li stays or not... Let us just leave it up to fate. Once this scheme comes out into the open, our relationship will deteriorate. Even if he doesn’t stay in our country as a guest, we shouldn’t try to scheme like this.”

“But Your Majesty...” The Eagle Demon Monarch quickly uttered.

Madam Zi Yan interrupted him: “I will find time to carefully talk about being a guest alchemist with Young Noble Li, including the matter of the Immortal Nectar. However, we will not use any deceptive words but rather sincerity instead.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch could only sigh and didn’t say anything else after seeing Madam Zi Yan’s firm resolution.

At this time, a confidant came to report: “Your Majesty, First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan seeks an audience.”

The eighteen monarchs all stared at the madam. She grimaced and said: “We will not be seeing guests at this moment.”

The confidant replied: “First Young Noble said that he must see Your Highness to speak about the Alchemy Conference.”

Madam Zi Yan’s expression became heavy as she raised her voice: “Tell Young Noble Huangfu that I don’t have time to see him right now!”

Over the years, Madam Zi Yan had a good reputation and was known to be both humble and generous to talents. She was keen on recruiting talented people from all over the world, so it was rare to see her act like this.

The confidant couldn’t help but lower his voice: “But a Huangfu Ancestor is also accompanying First Young Noble.”

After hearing this, Madam Zi Yan’s expression suddenly turned cold, and the eighteen monarchs’ faces contorted as well. Ancient Pine questioned: “What is Huangfu Hao trying to do? Force this marriage?”

Originally, Madam Zi Yan once said that she was seeking a gifted alchemist to participate in the Alchemy Conference to represent

the Giant Bamboo Country. Any qualified alchemist could make any demand.

Huangfu Hao also participated in this. He came to the Giant Bamboo Country not only for the Golem Square's auction but also to see Madam Zi Yan.

He told the madam that he agreed to represent them and would win what they desired.

These were not just mere words since he was dubbed the fifth alchemy prodigy by many others. Although his accomplishments and fame regarding the alchemy dao were not as illustrious as the other four, he came from an alchemy clan so his personal abilities were not bad at all. Very few geniuses could compare to him outside of the other four.

However, he also had one condition if he were to participate in the conference. He desired a marriage between the Giant Bamboo Country and the Huangfu Clan, one between him and Madam Zi Yan.

This was not a strange request at all for she had never lacked suitors and admirers. She was a charming and beautiful Demon King, and her looks, temperament, intelligence, and cultivation left no room for criticism. Moreover, she was the ideal virtuous wife for many men.

However, Madam Zi Yan immediately refused Huangfu Hao's request with a firm resolution.

Her countenance turned cold after hearing the confidant. Normally, she carried a gentle aura, but she was now emitting a cold energy as she was quite enraged.

Huangfu Hao's gesture was not as simple as it seemed. With an ancestor with him, it was clear that he was not just here to talk and was already leaning towards the path of coercion.

"It is rare for a Huangfu Ancestor to come to our country while keeping such a low profile." The Madam coldly spoke.

The eighteen monarchs were furious as well. It was a different matter if the Huangfu Clan Master was to come for the marriage proposal with Huangfu Hao, but an ancestor was a totally different story.

How could an ancestor from a great power come into being so easily? Such an existence should be sealed underground unless a great matter beckoned their presence. Now, his presence meant that this marriage proposal must be successful, and this showed the determination of Huangfu Hao and the Huangfu Clan.

One Demon Monarch couldn't help but coldly say: "The Huangfu Clan's actions are intolerable. Do they think our Giant Bamboo Country has no one that could stop them? Hmph!"

Huangfu Hao came to their abode with force, so how could the eighteen monarchs not be furious?

At this time, the always-gentle madam emotionlessly declared: “Tell them to leave. I will not grant an audience at this moment!” As a Demon King, she was no pushover!

“Your Majesty, I’m afraid that won’t be the wisest course of action.” The Eagle Demon Monarch pondered for a moment. Although he was dissatisfied with the Huangfu Clan’s actions, he still had to voice his advice: “Although our Giant Bamboo Country will not become in-laws with the Huangfu Clan, it hasn’t come to the point where we need to break all formalities. Your Majesty should still meet Huangfu Hao and tactfully reject him. After all, even visitors such as them are still guests.”

Chapter 645: Laying Bare

“... I will meet Huangfu Hao.” Madam Zi Yan coldly spoke: “But not now. With the presence of their ancestor, it would seem as if we were afraid of them. If their clan wants to threaten me, then I welcome it anytime! The Royal Lord of the Giant Bamboo Country is no coward!”

Having said that, Madam Zi Yan commanded the confidant: “Tell Huangfu Hao that I am not seeing guests today!”

The moment their Royal Lord made her decision, the eighteen monarchs didn't say anything else. The confidant quickly acknowledged the command and left.

Li Qiye was cultivating in Ancient Pine's mansion. Although he came back to the Giant Bamboo Country for a look and he still had a place that he needed to visit, he was not in a rush because he had more important things to do at this moment.

For the past several days, he still hadn't left his room. He trained within the confinement of the pentagate, not allowing anyone to disturb him.

With a solemn expression, Li Qiye sat cross-legged on the ground with his eyes closed while channeling his merit law.

Divine rings pulsed around his body as laws appeared along with

a majestic grand dao. His Life Wheel was rotating and continuously refining blood energy. Every drop of Longevity Blood created from these blood energies was rolling around like pearls inside the wheel.

However, Li Qiye was not paying attention to his merit laws. Three souls were hovering about his head as if they had their own life and were engraved with the ultimate profundity of what it meant to live in the world!

Of course, these were not the three souls that belonged to Li Qiye's three souls and seven spirits, they were the three Death Souls that he created using his True Fate with the laws inside the Death Scripture.

Thirteen Fate Palaces floated above his head and poured down the most supreme law in this world and carved them on the three fluttering souls. Meanwhile, the pillars of life were also carving complex dao laws in an attempt to refine these three souls.

Again and again, Li Qiye refined the three souls using a mysterious art so that they would contain the strongest laws in the world.

The Death Soul was one of the four gates of the Death Scripture, and it could even be said to be the most important of the four. As long as one of the three souls remained, he would be unkillable until his lifespan ran out.

He separated the three souls and continued to bombard them

with the most abstruse and powerful laws, allowing the ultimate grand dao to reside within them.

This was only the beginning. After he finished his refinement, he would use the strongest seal to store them in three different items and then hide them in three of the most heaven-defying locations.

Only by doing this would Li Qiye be unkillable. In the future, even if someone knew of his secret, it wouldn't be easy for them to find all three souls and destroy them.

Day after day of strengthening and refinement passed, and Li Qiye finally finished the process. He let out a sigh of relief and withdrew the fortified souls before standing up.

He left the room only to find Ancient Pine standing there, waiting. The monarch cheerfully smiled and went up to greet Li Qiye in a respectful manner: "Young Noble is finally done with your isolated cultivation."

There was only Li Qiye here since Shi Hao and Bai Weng had left. Shi Hao was sent to special training since he was going to be a court alchemist, and Bai Weng, as his caretaker, also went along with him.

"Is Young Noble about to take a stroll?" Ancient Pine asked: "How about you take a trip to the palace? Today, Her Majesty also came to see you but didn't want to bother you after seeing that you were in isolated cultivation. Her Majesty told me to ask you to come visit the palace whenever you have time."

“To the palace?” Li Qiye stroked his chin and said: “I also had this thought. I want to visit the back of your palace to broaden my horizons.”

“You want to see the back?” Ancient Pine’s eyes lit up and said: “What a coincidence! Tomorrow, the alchemy garden behind the palace will have a party with many young alchemists from our country participating. How about Young Noble come to take a look as well? It would be our country’s honor if you could give a few pointers there.”

“Is that so.” Li Qiye answered nonchalantly. He looked towards the horizon; of course, he was not gazing towards the alchemy garden since the thing that he wanted was not there.

Ancient Pine quickly explained: “Even further back beyond the alchemy garden is the Bamboo Garden, the dwelling of our deity. Our country has the Immortal Nectar desired by countless alchemists in this world, but very few outsiders know that the nectar is inside the Bamboo Garden.”

As a pillar of the country, the monarch naturally wanted Li Qiye to stay as a guest alchemist, so he purposely brought up the Immortal Nectar to pique Li Qiye’s interest.

Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and looked back at the monarch.

The monarch was secretly ecstatic because, judging by Li Qiye’s expression, he thought that Li Qiye was interested in the nectar.

He continued on: “Young Noble, it has to be said that our Immortal Nectar is unique in this world, a divine item craved by all! Even an Alchemy Emperor from the Alchemy Kingdom wished for just one drop, but he couldn’t obtain it. If Young Noble is lucky enough to obtain the nectar in the Bamboo Garden, then we will be more than happy to gift it to you.”

This phrase was meant to tempt Li Qiye. It was the same [as painting a cake on a piece of paper or exchanging a favor with an empty hand](#).

Both of these are idioms that apply to this situation. A cake on a piece of paper looks pretty, but you can’t eat it. The empty hand one meant that the country never possessed the nectar in the first place since they don’t know how to get it, but they are speaking as if they’re doing Li Qiye a solid favor.

For generations, the experts of the country couldn’t enter the garden, let alone an outsider. Ancient Pine’s words were akin to them doing Li Qiye a favor.

Li Qiye laughed and said: “Demon Monarch, is this your idea or Madam Zi Yan’s?”

“Hahaha!” The monarch busily smiled and said: “This is a little goodwill from our entire country.”

Li Qiye shook his head and said: “Demon Monarch’s words might be able to fool others, but not me. Let me ask you, do you know the effects of the Immortal Nectar?”

“This...” The monarch was stumped and couldn’t give an answer. The rumors that their Immortal Nectar was coveted by all had always existed. However, in the country, especially this generation, there was very little understanding of what the nectar was or how it could be used.

Li Qiye laughed and said: “You are painting a cake for me. Outsiders might not know, but I am aware of a few things, such as the part where outsiders are not allowed into the Bamboo Garden. However, the even more pressing reality is that no one in the country can enter it at all. Moreover, are you sure that the nectar is inside the garden? Perhaps even you guys don’t know and are only tricking me.”

The monarch became very after embarrassed after Li Qiye revealed everything. He indeed wanted to tempt him and thought that Li Qiye wouldn’t know about it, so Li Qiye laying everything bare made it very awkward for him.

Ancient Pine didn’t know what to say as he stuttered: “Ummm...” He didn’t expect to be caught by Li Qiye.

Li Qiye continued on: “Demon Monarch only wants to tempt me so that I will stay at the Giant Bamboo Country. However, you have picked the wrong person; others might be convinced, but unfortunately, you met me.”

The monarch’s heart skipped a beat as he quickly prostrated and apologized: “Young Noble, this is my own doing, thinking that I

was smart I tried to scheme. I hope that Young Noble...”

Li Qiye saw the monarch’s fear and trepidation, so he gently waved his sleeve to say: “Stand up, this matter is over. You bore no malicious intent and only wanted me to stay as a guest of Giant Bamboo.”

The monarch heaved a sigh of relief after being forgiven by Li Qiye. He bowed his head and admitted his mistake: “This was all my doing, Her Majesty didn’t agree either.”

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t say anything else. He stared into the distance and said: “If there is a party at the alchemy garden tomorrow, then I’ll come and take a look.”

“Your participation will add countless brilliant colors to the party!” After the initial shock of Li Qiye agreeing to go to the party, Ancient Pine happily exclaimed: “I will go tell Her Majesty.”

Li Qiye didn’t stop Ancient Pine. He looked towards the sky to gaze at the huge bamboo standing proudly among the nine heavens. The rays of sunlight piercing through the gaps of the leaves were quite soothing to the soul. This tree had always protected this area, bringing peace and tranquility.

This was the truth for millions of years. This bamboo tree had always protected the capital.

The next day, the feast began at the alchemy garden. Many

promising young alchemists from the sects in Giant Bamboo were present, and some came from the other countries as well.

This was actually a farewell party hosted by Madam Zi Yan. Prior to this, she announced that there would be rewards for young alchemists who participate in the Alchemy Conference.

Many young alchemists didn't mind traveling the long distance to pass this test. However, with Li Qiye's promise to attend the conference, there was no longer a need for other young alchemists, so Madam Zi Yan hosted this party.

She was a wise ruler and invited not only those who passed the initial test but also unknown young alchemists.

The young alchemists who passed the test were slightly unhappy with the farewell party because they initially had a chance of being selected as the conference participant.

Chapter 646: Giant Bamboo Country's Alchemy Garden

However, a person named Li Qiye came out of nowhere and removed the need for the final competition to determine the participant. Despite their unhappiness, the Giant Bamboo Country still compensated them for the long journey.

Moreover, Madam Zi Yan herself hosted this feast, so the alchemists were quite happy to attend. The reason was very simple; regardless of passing or failing the test, this was still a good opportunity for them because the alchemy garden of the Giant Bamboo Country was quite famous. Although Giant Bamboo was not an alchemy country, its garden was huge with large-scale plants of high-level spirit medicines and grasses.

Although it couldn't be compared to the garden of a giant monster such as the Alchemy Kingdom, it carried its own distinguished reputation; it was much better than the gardens from the other great powers. Of course, there were reasons for its prosperity.

For these alchemists, especially the younger ones, this was a rare chance for them to take a look at the alchemy garden, a chance to increase their knowledge by seeing many exceedingly rare herbs and plants.

Poets and scholars loved to gaze at the moon to gain inspiration for new literary works. However, in the Stone Medicine World, the most wondrous thing for alchemists was to gaze at plants.

Because of this, even before the feast had started, many young alchemists came early to the palace and were escorted into the garden by Giant Bamboo disciples.

Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan was personally presiding over the feast inside the garden. She didn't stay out to greet the arriving guests, but a Demon King like her attending such a feast was already a grand and appreciable gesture to the young alchemists.

She was well known for her hospitality to talents, and today was a clear example of her humble pursuit for talents; clearly, she was not just fishing for compliments and fame.

The alchemists were amazed once they entered the alchemy garden and looked around. Even though many of the youths were from alchemy clans, they still had to admit that Giant Bamboo's alchemy garden was worthy of its prestige.

It was vast and occupied a huge location. Looking ahead, one could see the undulating waves of changes in sceneries, including different batches of fields, mountains, ponds, and even alchemy pools as red as fire.

No matter what type of medicines these fields were cultivating, all of them were encompassed in a thick worldly energy. It could be said that this place was full of it, so it was not only an ideal place for plant cultivation, but also a great location for normal cultivation as well. Such a great place was something to be desired.

After seeing the thick worldly energy, the participating youths finally understood why this alchemy garden was so famous.

All kinds of spirit medicines and grasses of the highest level could be found inside. Such a garden was much better than the gardens from the other great powers.

Why was it that the Giant Bamboo Country had such a good garden? Many alchemists and lineages had secretly debated this matter. Even the country's disciples gossiped about this.

Some believed that this garden was blessed due to the deity tree's protection, that it was groomed by a divine essence so it was able to grow this many alchemy ingredients.

Others stated that its excellence came from being built at the end of the Elegant Azure Mountains where it was empowered by the worldly energy there.

Many people, including experts from the country itself, thought that both of these speculations were logical.

It was situated behind the palace, very close to the Bamboo Garden. One had to cross this alchemy garden before they could reach the Bamboo Garden and then the Elegant Azure Mountains.

Everyone in the Stone Medicine World knew about the giant bamboo tree of this country. Of course this alchemy garden would be blessed when a Divine Guardian was so close to strengthen it.

The second theory was even more accepted. There was a saying in the Stone Medicine World: Three Ancestral Veins, Eight Grand Veins. The three Ancestral Veins were the Alchemy Vein, Stone Vein, and Beast Vein.

These Ancestral Veins were also called the corners of this world since these veins divided it into three great realms. These veins were named the Alchemy Realm, Stone Realm, and Beast Realm, and the inhabitants relied on them to exist.

Inside these three realms were eight Grand Veins. Although these eight Grand Veins were not comparable to the three Ancestral Veins, they occupied this land like eight monstrous dragons.

The Elegant Azure Mountains were one of the eight Grand Veins. The mountain range spanned across several tens of millions of miles of territory. There were many clans and great powers built along this great mountain range.

The Giant Bamboo Country was situated at the tail of the Elegant Azure Mountains, and the imperial palace was at the center of the back. Of course, it was needless to say where the alchemy garden was; it was at the tip of the vein.

The three Ancestral Veins concentrated all the worldly energy in the Stone Medicine World while the eight Grand Veins were able to do the same for their respective realms.

Since the Elegant Azure Mountains were so large, its territory

spanned for tens of millions of miles. It could be said that the vein condensed the widest area of worldly energy, causing the energy to be quite thick here. Due to its great location, it was not strange for the alchemy garden to be so fertile.

The astounded young alchemists also learned a lot with the help of the Giant Bamboo disciples introducing them to everything here. They also noticed the Bamboo Garden very close to the alchemy garden: “That must be the Bamboo Garden where the Giant Bamboo Divine Guardian resides?”

They couldn’t enter the Bamboo Garden, but they were still able to see it. There were flickering tree shadows with rich vegetation, indicative of its great vitality. The giant bamboo tree was very famous in the Stone Medicine World, and the country was even named after it. Some people referred to it as an invincible deity.

The party became very lively due to the high number of young participants. Many alchemists conversed with each other or were just gazing at the plants.

At this time, there was a small uproar as one young alchemist spoke in a low voice: “The main descendant of the Qing Clan is here.”

A young man followed a Giant Bamboo disciple inside. He was dressed in an alchemist’s style as his body emitted a green light as well as an aroma of herbs. Anyone could smell these fragrances coming from his body.

Several young alchemists who were familiar with him came to give their greetings: “Brother Qing Yu, you finally made it!”

This young alchemist was the Qing Clan’s descendant, Qing Yu. The Qing Clan was an alchemy clan. Although it had never produced an Alchemy Emperor, it had several Legendary Alchemists.

Of course, its attainments in alchemy were not comparable to a monster like the Alchemy Kingdom or other Alchemy Emperor’s lineages, but at the Giant Bamboo Country, it was the number one alchemy clan.

Qing Yu did not shame his noble upbringing since he was quite talented in the dao of alchemy. Despite his young age, he was already an Alchemy Grandmaster. A previous generation alchemist assessed that, in less than two years, he would become a Profound Alchemist.

It was quite brilliant to be a grandmaster at such a young age, so this was why Qing Yu was called the number one young alchemist in the Giant Bamboo Country.

His attendance at the party was overshadowed by an exasperated expression, but due to having to maintain cordiality with Madam Zi Yan, he didn’t dare to miss it.

One young alchemist whispered after noticing the apparent dissatisfaction: “It seems that Qing Yu is very unhappy?”

Another responded: “How could he be happy? He has now lost his position. He was going to attend the conference and represent Giant Bamboo, but now he has nothing to do.”

Some other alchemists who passed the preliminary tests felt relieved after seeing Qing Yu lose his position as well. Even the number one in the country was eliminated, so there was nothing else that they could do.

One person asked: “Just who is the alchemist that will represent Giant Bamboo? If Qing Yu was eliminated as well, then could the country have found a superior alchemist to him?”

A well-informed young alchemist said: “It is a person named Li Qiye. His background is unknown, but I heard that he is very generous and throws money around like trash.”

Many of them had never heard of Li Qiye so they curiously asked: “Just who is this Li Qiye? Could he be a lot better than Qing Yu?”

Outsiders knew neither Li Qiye’s origin nor why the Giant Bamboo Country thought so highly of him. After selecting Li Qiye, they kicked Qing Yu out of the list without even giving him the chance to be a backup.

Chapter 647: Huangfu Hao

Although he received a grand reception from the Giant Bamboo Country after entering the alchemy garden, he was still feeling very upset. He should have attended the conference for this country — this was already a done deal. He was full of ambition and wanted to show his alchemy skills at the conference to become renowned in the world.

However, this set-in-stone matter suddenly changed as a saboteur jumped out of nowhere to steal his seat. He even lost his chance to be part of the reserve!

If his spot was stolen by a renowned alchemist like the four prodigies, then Qing Yu would have no grievances. However, Li Qiye, who stole his spot, was an alchemist no one had heard of before.

How could Qing Yu, who people referred to as the number one alchemist in Giant Bamboo, be happy when a nobody stole his spot?

He didn't dare to reveal his anger in front of Demon King Zi Yan, but his expression said it all.

“Young Noble Huangfu has arrived!” A message came from outside of the door and rang across the alchemy garden.

After hearing this message, many alchemists shuddered and turned around to look at the entrance. Some of them whispered:

“Even the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan is here.”

Many of their hearts thumped once. Even the more arrogant alchemists had to hang their heads low at the moment and let go of their pride.

“We are extremely lucky to attend a party with Huangfu Hao.” A group of alchemists cheerfully said.

Huangfu Hao was very famous in the Alchemy Realm and even the entire Stone Medicine World. He was not only a genius at cultivation but a prodigy in the dao of alchemy as well.

As the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan, he did not let his upbringing down since he was already a Heavenly King at his young age. Although the Difficult Dao Era had already ended, it was still quite amazing for him to reach this realm and was indicative of his commendable talents.

However, the accomplishment that was talked about the most was not his cultivation, but his skill at the dao of alchemy. In this world, some people once said that if Huangfu Hao didn't spend so much effort on cultivation, then he would have had the chance to be part of the four alchemy prodigies.

Even though his alchemy skills were vastly inferior to the four prodigies, people in the Stone Medicine World still called him the fifth prodigy.

Many thought that he was only second to the four prodigies and others couldn't compare with him among the younger generation regarding alchemy.

He was a golem, so as he stepped into the alchemy garden, his stout stature seemed impressive. This would be the case no matter the location.

The divine rings pulsing around his body were even more shocking. At this time, he didn't try to hide his presence and seemed to want to suppress everyone. The divine rings made his already-tall figure seem as omnipotent as a deity.

Many young alchemists palpitated since they could feel the Heavenly King aura coming from his approach. They all took a deep breath and didn't dare to compete with him.

As the host, Madam Zi Yan came to greet him: "Your presence brightens this party."

"It seems that Your Majesty has been particularly busy, it has been a struggle to see you." Huangfu Hao was secretly annoyed. Recently, Madam Zi Yan had denied all of his requests to meet. Although the Giant Bamboo Country didn't show a lack of formality with Demon Monarchs entertaining him, that was not what he wanted.

Madam Zi Yan calmly replied: "A few trifling matters in the country had been a bit onerous, please excuse me."

Huangfu Hao took a deep breath to calm his dissatisfaction and slowly spoke: “I have heard of your country’s famous alchemy garden before. I wonder if I could have the honor of Your Majesty taking a walk around the garden with me?”

Madam Zi Yan looked at him and nodded her head: “If you are interested, then I do not mind.”

She led Huangfu Hao to look at the different plants in the garden. The truth was that Huangfu Hao was [like a drunkard whose heart was not tempted by wine](#) at the moment. He simply wanted to have a chance to be together, so he asked Madam Zi Yan to lead the way.

A comparison between an alchemist who doesn’t actually want to see plants versus a drunkard who doesn’t want to drink.

During their viewing, Huangfu Hao had mentioned the matter of marriage several times, but they were all rejected tactfully by Madam Zi Yan, causing him to be quite helpless.

He liked her very much and wanted to marry her. Unfortunately, Madam Zi Yan was not interested and had no desire to have a marriage alliance with the Huangfu Clan.

The young alchemists were envious at this scene of the two walking together. She was renowned; not only was she a wise ruler, she was also a beautiful and smart woman. Despite her numerous suitors in the Alchemy Realm, no one had earned her attention.

Although many were quite envious, what could they do? A Demon King like Madam Zi Yan... Perhaps only a Heavenly King like Huangfu Hao from a prestigious clan would be a good match for her.

A young alchemist couldn't help but ask: "I heard that the Huangfu Clan had married into the Alchemy Kingdom for several generations. Don't tell me that Huangfu Hao doesn't want to marry a disciple from the Alchemy Kingdom and instead wants to form a marriage alliance with the Giant Bamboo Country?"

Another alchemist's blood boiled as he quickly answered: "Yeah! I also heard that the current descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom is an incredible woman — unmatched in this generation."

Many became excited and overwhelmed with admiration once the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom was brought up. This was because, in any generation, the Alchemy Kingdom's descendant was always a hot topic, not to mention that it was a female disciple this time. It was rumored that she was a supreme goddess, someone exceptional throughout the ages.

Such a person would naturally become the focus of discussions for many alchemists and cultivators.

A young alchemist from the outskirts of the Alchemy Kingdom opened his mouth: "Yeah! The current Alchemy Kingdom's descendant, Fairy Ming, is the number one beauty of the Stone Medicine World. No one in the Stone Medicine World can compare to her in this generation."

“Hmm, yeah. Many people said that she is the number one beauty. It is a shame that I’ve never been able to see her. Have you, Fellow Daoist? Just how pretty is Fairy Ming?”

Even those who had never seen her before would be excited when they talked about the number one beauty.

The young alchemist from the outskirts said: “How could I have? She is a goddess up in the nine heavens, far from my reach. How could ordinary people like us see her? Not to mention that she keeps a very low profile and rarely goes out in public. It is too difficult for outsiders to see her.”

One yearning alchemist couldn’t help but say: “Fairy Ming is the number one beauty, so if I could just see her face once, [I don’t mind losing a decade of my life.](#)”

When people live for much more than 100 years, this guy can straight up be considered a swindler.

He wasn’t the only alchemist who was a big fan of Fairy Ming. All the other alchemists inevitably longed to see the number one beauty.

Ming Yexue, the descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom, was very famous throughout the Stone Medicine World. Although very few people had seen her and she kept a very low profile, her fame didn’t diminish one bit.

An innocent alchemist from a smaller sect asked: “Didn’t the Huangfu Clan have a marriage alliance with the Alchemy Kingdom for several generations? How come Huangfu Hao isn’t marrying Fairy Ming?”

This naive comment annoyed the other alchemists. In the Stone Medicine World, cultivators and alchemists, especially the younger ones, all considered Ming Yexue to be a goddess amidst the clouds. Thus, they all snorted at this comment and then glanced at Huangfu Hao standing in the distance with a contemptuous smile.

They didn’t dare to answer this question in front of Huangfu Hao. They waited for him to go far away, of course, before showing their disdain.

One of them sneered in a low voice: “How could that be possible? The Huangfu Clan isn’t worthy of the Alchemy Kingdom.”

“It is indeed impossible. Although the Huangfu Clan had a marriage alliance with the kingdom for several generations, this was limited to the regional level. As for the main branch or the imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom, it didn’t need a marriage alliance to consolidate their position.” One alchemist who was knowledgeable about the kingdom answered: “The Huangfu Clan has no chance of a marriage with the kingdom’s direct branch. Not to mention a male from the Huangfu Clan wanting to marry a direct female disciple from the kingdom, it is already exceedingly difficult for their main daughter to marry a direct male disciple.”

“This makes sense.” The other young alchemists nodded their heads after hearing this explanation.

There were very few existences comparable to the monster that is the Alchemy Kingdom in this world, so its descendant had no need for a marriage alliance.

“Then Young Noble Huangfu wants to marry Her Majesty Zi Yan.” Another alchemist was annoyed to see Huangfu Hao standing next to Madam Zi Yan, but he had to admit that only someone like Huangfu Hao was worthy of a Demon King like her.

A young fan of hers coldly countered: “Hmph! Not necessarily. The Giant Bamboo Country is not weaker than the Huangfu Clan. Plus, she is the ruler of a country, so she absolutely won’t marry into the Huangfu Clan.”

Another alchemist interjected: “But that is not certain. I heard that Fairy Ming and Huangfu Hao are relatives, and she is actually his little cousin. If this relationship is real, then maybe the Giant Bamboo Country will use this to earn the kingdom’s favor.”

Chapter 648: Qing Yu

The knowledgeable alchemist spoke again: “Not necessarily. The rumors are right, Fairy Ming and Huangfu Clan are indeed related, but it is a very distant relationship that has a gap of many generations. If Fairy Ming was Huangfu Hao’s first cousin, then the Huangfu Clan would have wagged its tail everywhere already.”

At this point, many alchemists were staring at Huangfu Hao, especially after Madam Zi Yan had left his side. With his impressive aura, he was like a crane among a flock of chickens. Alchemists with humble upbringings didn’t dare to start a conversation with him. Only an excellent talent like Qing Yu would strike up a conversation.

At this time, a disciple ran over in a hurry and reported to Madam Zi Yan: “Your Majesty, Young Noble Li is here.”

After hearing this news, Madam Zi Yan’s spirit suddenly became better and went out herself to greet him without the slightest delay. Even Huangfu Hao didn’t enjoy such treatment.

All the alchemists were glancing at each other after hearing about Li Qiye’s arrival. They became even more curious when they saw Madam Zi Yan personally going to greet him.

They all knew that the Giant Bamboo Country erased all the alchemists from the list, even Qing Yu, just because of this unknown Li Qiye.

They were very interested while simultaneously shocked to see what kind of god Li Qiye might be in order to be so highly regarded by the Giant Bamboo Country.

Qing Yu's expression sank after hearing about Li Qiye. It would be strange if he was fine with it. Li Qiye was the reason why Qing Yu lost the chance to show himself and become renowned throughout the world. If given the chance, he wouldn't mind killing this nobody, Li Qiye.

At the same time, Huangfu Hao's glare became cold with flashing glints akin to needles. He had this expression because even his treatment had been inferior.

As the First Young Noble from the Huangfu Clan, his nobility was without question, yet Madam Zi Yan didn't go to the door to greet him. Alas, this was still reasonable because Madam Zi Yan was at the highest position as the ruler of a country and a Heavenly King. It was normal for her not to personally greet Huangfu Hao.

But now, this nobody Li Qiye was enjoying this grand gesture, causing Huangfu Hao to hate Li Qiye even more.

More important, there had already been a brewing feud between these two. Back at the Golem Square, Huangfu Hao had wanted to buy the heavenly cauldron from the Hundred-grass Alchemy Emperor. With great difficulty, he managed to convince Jian Wushuang and had to pay an exorbitant price. He thought that he would be able to own the cauldron, but who would have thought that Li Qiye would bid even higher and paid several times the price, drowning out his beautiful dream of owning the cauldron?

He wanted to kill Li Qiye due to this hatred since that cauldron was extremely rare. It was an opportunity for him to get closer to the imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom as well as suck up to his little cousin, Ming Yexue. However, Li Qiye's unexpected interference made him lose all hope of this.

Li Qiye entered the garden with Madam Zi Yan as his escort. He took a deep breath to feel the pure worldly energy from the alchemy garden.

He couldn't help but become a bit sentimental once he stepped on this familiar land as he felt an intimate connection with it. It was as if this place had a beating heart and remained the same since the last time he had visited.

Madam Zi Yan, playing the role of escort, was very attentive: "This is our Giant Bamboo's medicinal garden that contains a few spirit medicines. Our alchemists' skills are limited, so I hope that Young Noble Li can teach us a thing or two."

She didn't only lead him to see each plant, she also introduced them very carefully. Her goal was to take him throughout the entire garden and hope that he could give them some pointers. As long as he was willing to depart with a bit of his knowledge, the country would greatly benefit from it.

Her care, patience, consideration, and enthusiasm as a guide made all the onlookers jealous. Huangfu Hao didn't get nearly the same level of treatment.

People realized now that earlier, Madam Zi Yan was only fulfilling her duty as the host when she took Huangfu Hao around. Her demeanor was completely different as she took Li Qiye around; it was clear that she was entirely driven by a sincere passion.

However, the young alchemists were greatly disappointed after seeing Li Qiye. Everyone here knew that they were removed from the list because of Li Qiye. Prior to them seeing his face, they all thought that he was a grand and untouchable character.

But now, it turned out that Li Qiye was only an ordinary human, an inconspicuous junior.

They secretly looked at him with scorn: “Why does the Giant Bamboo Country value this Li Qiye? Could it be that he is very gifted at pill refinement?”

This doubt was understandable because any alchemist with some achievements would have a different appearance. It could be due to the sweet aroma of herbs or something special about them. However, there was nothing special about Li Qiye outside of his origin — the human race.

An alchemist had heard of a certain rumor and spoke: “I heard that he threw around enough money to scare people to death.”

An unconvinced young alchemist snorted and said: “What does being rich have to do with this matter? The Giant Bamboo Country is looking for an alchemist, not a financial backing.”

Some of them had the urge to challenge Li Qiye. They didn't believe that this ordinary human brat was better than them. However, out of fear of Madam Zi Yan's imperial aura, they didn't dare to go forward.

Others might be scared, but this didn't mean that Qing Yu was afraid. He snorted after seeing the madam accompanying Li Qiye the entire time.

He had been annoyed this whole time after being replaced by Li Qiye even though he was the number one young alchemist of the country. He felt especially snubbed after seeing Madam Zi Yan treating this nobody with the highest level of courtesy.

This difference in treatment greatly exasperated him, so he wanted to take it out on Li Qiye. He walked closer then bowed towards Madam Zi Yan before directly asking Li Qiye: "You are Li Qiye, correct?"

It was apparent to everyone that Qing Yu wanted to cause trouble with his aggressive demeanor. Madam Zi Yan couldn't help but grimace.

Meanwhile, the other alchemists were becoming more excited. Many of them were already displeased with Li Qiye, but out of fear for Madam Zi Yan, no one wanted to do anything. So now, they were more than happy to watch Qing Yu provoking him.

However, Li Qiye didn't bother looking at Qing Yu who wanted

to cause trouble and continued to nonchalantly gaze at the spirit medicines.

This attitude enraged Qing Yu even further. Who was he? Although he was not as famous as Huangfu Hao, he was quite popular in the Giant Bamboo Country and was referred to as its number one young alchemist. Furthermore, his skill showed that this title was well-deserved.

Qing Yu coldly spoke: “Oh? You don’t have the courage to admit who you are?”

Madam Zi Yan’s brows furrowed as she said: “Qing Yu, halt your impudence. Everyone in the alchemy garden is a respected guest of the Giant Bamboo Country, do not overstep your bounds.”

Madam Zi Yan’s words were an explicit warning to Qing Yu. Although the Qing Clan was quite large in the country, and sometimes, even the imperial palace required its existence, Madam Zi Yan knew very clearly who was more important between Li Qiye and Qing Yu. Even the entire Qing Clan was not comparable to Li Qiye.

The madam was the Demon King of an entire country, so she commanded respect even when displaying signs of anger. Everyone’s hearts thumped after hearing her; her imperial aura was unstoppable.

Others who wanted to challenge Li Qiye as well didn’t have the same confidence as Qing Yu, so they stood to the side to watch.

Huangfu Hao smirked on the sideline as well since he wanted to see what Li Qiye could do. He was going to test Li Qiye, but he was more than happy to watch Qing Yu try him first.

At the same time, Madam Zi Yan, who was emitting her imperial aura, caused Qing Yu to become nervous. Her clear partiality to Li Qiye made him even more annoyed.

He took a deep breath and calmed his mind before biting his teeth and decided to take a risk. He didn't believe that the Qing Clan's position in the Giant Bamboo Country was not as great as this nobody!

Although he knew that his actions were impinging on Madam Zi Yan's prestige, he had great confidence in the Qing Clan's influence. He trusted that this matter would eventually become no big deal.

He prepared himself and placed his hands together to bow towards the madam before speaking in a stern manner: "Your Majesty, you are the ruler of our country and I did not intend on offending you. However, I am also an alchemist who follows the rules of alchemy. If Li Qiye is to participate and represent our country at the conference, this means that he is the most excellent young alchemist in Giant Bamboo and only he alone is qualified to participate...

"I am not questioning Your Majesty's decision. Your Majesty is wise and brilliant, so this choice will naturally not be wrong. However, as an alchemist, if Li Qiye is the number one, then I wish to challenge him to see if he is qualified to be our candidate or

not!”

Chapter 649: Ominous Star Flower

Madam Zi Yan grimaced and deepened her tone: “Young Noble Li’s skill of alchemy is flawless; all of the monarchs had witnessed his supreme pill refinement ability.”

Qing Yu quickly said: “I trust Your Majesty and all the Demon Monarchs. However, as an alchemist speaking on behalf of alchemy, discussing and exchanging alchemy arts is how it should be. Moreover, Li Qiye is here to represent our country, so everyone should see his alchemy dao with their own eyes. What do you think, Your Majesty?”

The other alchemists all clamored: “Yes, Your Majesty. If Li Qiye’s alchemy dao is peerless, then let him broaden our horizons!”

It was only natural for the dissatisfied crowd to support Qing Yu. This was their chance to let out their dissatisfaction without truly offending Madam Zi Yan’s imperial prestige.

Madam Zi Yan’s eyes became serious after seeing Qing Yu’s refusal to yield. It was not difficult for her to chase him away, but she still wanted to see how Li Qiye wanted to deal with this situation.

Li Qiye stopped looking at the spirit plants and glanced at Qing Yu. He smiled and said: “Ah? You want to challenge my alchemy dao?”

A flame lit up in Qing Yu's heart after seeing Li Qiye's attitude. He tried his best to contain his anger and coldly said: "That's right! I want to challenge your alchemy dao to see if you are qualified to participate in the conference or not!"

He was very confident since he didn't believe a nobody like Li Qiye was better than him. After all, the number one alchemist of the Giant Bamboo Country should be confident in his own abilities.

Madam Zi Yan was not happy with Qing Yu's aggressiveness, so she furrowed her brows and said: "Qing Yu, how do you want to challenge Young Noble Li?"

"Pill refinement!" Qing Yu replied, full of confidence: "We'll bet on our pill refinement skills, and the victor can do whatever he wants. I will accept any bet you make, so if you are confident enough and want to bet your life, I will take that on too. The losers will have to fuel their cauldron's Fire Source."

These words shocked everyone. Alchemists might settle grievances with alchemy, but betting their lives and fueling their own Fire Source was too grave.

Generally, unless if it was an irreconcilable feud, no one would make such a bet since it was too serious. Not only would the bet take the opponent's life, it would also humiliate them. A cauldron was a lifelong friend to an alchemist, so killing oneself using their own Fire Source was an extreme means of humiliation and much more brutal than a simple death.

Madam Zi Yan's expression sank as well after hearing this. She could understand Qing Yu's desire to challenge Li Qiye. After all, he suddenly lost his qualification to represent them, so his dissatisfaction was justified.

A simple challenge was tolerable, but now, it was not just a challenge since Qing Yu's aim was to humiliate Li Qiye.

"Qing Yu, do not act rashly!" Madam Zi Yan raised her tone: "Do not mention this again lest you wish for a severe punishment!" Even without any trace of anger in her voice, she still carried a mighty prestige worthy of a Demon King. However, the moment her anger was ignited, her noble and powerful aura would be unstoppable and suppress all directions, rendering people breathless.

Qing Yu's expression greatly changed as the imperial aura caused him to take several steps back. Although he was the number one young alchemist of the country, he still couldn't withstand the madam's aura that caused him to turn pale.

She didn't purposely want to suppress Qing Yu, but her anger was enough to deter him.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn't bother caring about him as he walked forward. A person like Qing Yu was not worthy of consideration, so it was enough that Madam Zi Yan chased him away. Li Qiye didn't want to make a move against such a trivial character unless Qing Yu ignorantly continued to jump and shout

in front of him. Then, Li Qiye wouldn't mind personally taking care of him.

The other young alchemists didn't dare to say anything else since Madam Zi Yan's imperial aura was indubitable. They were not as strong as Qing Yu, so how could they challenge her aura?

Huangfu Hao became disappointed since he wanted to see Li Qiye's abilities. Who would have thought that Qing Yu would be swiftly dealt with by Madam Zi Yan?

Back in the Golem Square, he saw — with his own eyes — Li Qiye's generous spending and extremely arrogant attitude. He wanted to see just what type of person this human junior named Li Qiye was.

As the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan, Huangfu Hao had never been afraid of anyone. He still wanted to learn more about Li Qiye. If Li Qiye had no backing, then he was only a fish on a cutting board in Huangfu Hao's eyes!

Li Qiye went to another field and was surprised to see a particular spirit medicine here: "Ominous Star Flower."

This field only had one large flower around the size of a table surface. It had the appearance of stars with its flashing petals akin to starlight.

The huge flower had so many layers of petals that one couldn't

see its pistil. In the center was a darkness that resembled a black hole.

The flower was very bright and beautiful, but do not be fooled by the appearance of this flower.

Its name was the Ominous Star Flower. Outside of its star-like appearance, the most important word in its name was “Ominous”.

It was certainly vicious and would capture all existences close to it; not only animals, even other spirit plants would be devoured!

Because of this, the plot where this flower grew was devoid of other plants. The older it was, the stronger it became. Once it reached a particular level, it could then even fly around.

This flower was extremely malefic but also exceeding rare and precious with a sky-high price.

Madam Zi Yan explained after seeing Li Qiye’s interest in the flower: “We bought it several years ago from an auction. At that time, it was only a seedling, but it was quite vicious already.”

Li Qiye only gave a passing glance at the flower and nodded his head approvingly: “It is growing well, it seems that your alchemists have a bit of skill.”

Others would think that Li Qiye was arrogant without peer after hearing this. The imperial palace had many alchemists, but Li Qiye

said it as if they were not worth mentioning.

Madam Zi Yan didn't think anything of it. Since she had seen his pill refinement skill personally, she knew he was qualified to make such a statement.

However, the other alchemists were very unhappy, especially Qing Yu who responded with a scowl.

Madam Zi Yan smiled and said: "Young Noble is too kind. This is only a display of insignificant skill and is not worthy of your approval. Moreover, the palace can't take all the credit for this. It was really difficult to grow this Ominous Star Flower. After planting it, it would prey on the other spirit medicines, never settling down...

"Luckily, an elder alchemist from the Qing Clan and Qing Yu researched and created a new fertilizing water meant for this flower. With it, we were able to calm it down and the flower was able to grow much better."

Qing Yu's actions caused her displeasure, but she was a wise ruler and didn't want to bury a good talent, so she asserted his contributions to this matter.

Qing Yu couldn't help but reveal a smug look after being praised by Madam Zi Yan. This was one of his greatest achievements since mixing fertilizer was a test of skill. Even though it was not mixed by him alone, he indeed contributed greatly to its creation.

Li Qiye looked at the flower and shook his head to say: “This is only treating the symptoms and not addressing the root cause; it’s only an illusion of wellness. This strain of fertilizing water can only hold on for two to three more years. Afterward, the flower will become even fiercer.”

Madam Zi Yan’s heart thumped upon hearing this, so she quickly inquired: “Does Young Noble have a way to save it?” Although she didn’t understand the inner workings of this matter, she was very confident in Li Qiye’s alchemy skill.

The smug Qing Yu’s expression quickly changed after hearing Li Qiye’s critique. Li Qiye belittling the unique recipe was the same as provoking him!

“Hmph! How arrogant!” Qing Yu coldly said: “Anyone can see that this Ominous Star Flower is growing well, don’t comment haphazardly and delude people with lies!”

This unique fertilizing strand was one of his proudest achievements, so he became furious when Li Qiye put it down. He had previously viewed Li Qiye as an enemy, but he became even more aggressive now.

Initially, Li Qiye was too lazy to bother with a little character like Qing Yu, but this ant jumped in front of him once again so he had to teach him a lesson. He didn’t bother to give a glimpse at the guy as he slowly spoke: “This fertilizing formula only has Corruption Ward Sacred Water, the other ingredients are not worth mentioning. The flower is calm because of this water.”

Chapter 650: The Dao Of Cultivating Flower

Qing Yu was astounded when Li Qiye quickly revealed the crux of his secret formula, but he recovered very quickly. Perhaps Li Qiye was only lucky and guessed correctly.

Qing Yu coldly spoke: “So what? The Ominous Star Flower is vicious by nature, but this is due to its environment. It usually grows up in nether and dangerous lands so it has vicious tendencies. Coincidentally, the Corruption Ward Sacred Water is able to dispel the evil aura from these spirit plants.

“By dispelling the evil impulses from the flower as well as nurturing it with this fertilizer so that it could have a better growing environment, this would allow for it to calm down. Through time, its vicious nature will be erased, and one day, it will become a divine flower.”

Although Qing Yu and Li Qiye were enemies, it had to be said that Qing Yu was indeed slightly capable with some knowledge regarding the dao of alchemy.

“Young Noble Qing, you definitely deserve to be called the number one alchemist of the Giant Bamboo Country! This solution truly is wonderful.” After hearing what Qing Yu said, many of the surrounding alchemists couldn’t help but voice their praise.

“It really is amazing, to be able to use this fertilizer to change the vicious habits of this flower... As long as we continue to use it, with the passage of time, this fierce flower will turn into a divine

flower!” Another young alchemist couldn’t help but admire Qing Yu’s method.

Madam Zi Yan was not an alchemist, but prior to this, she also appreciated Qing Yu’s solution. She told Li Qiye: “Qing Yu’s fertilizer was indeed effective. Ever since the Ominous Star Flower was treated with it, it changed a lot and became very docile while exhibiting great growth.”

Li Qiye looked at Qing Yu and smiled: “This is only an illusion. The Corruption Ward Sacred Water has the effect of removing evil from ordinary spirit medicines, but what is an Ominous Star Flower? It is an extremely precious and rare strand that has its own awareness. The water won’t be able to remove the evil from it. In fact, it would only act as supreme nutrients for the flower.”

Li Qiye nonchalantly continued on: “A young Ominous Star Flower would grow very quickly with the sacred water, so why would it need to catch other prey when this super nutritious water was being handed to it directly? It is only pretending to be docile since there is no reason for it not to.”

“Hmph! How can an alchemist speak such nonsense.” Qing Yu coldly smiled: “Everyone knows of the evil deterring effect of the sacred water, so where is this nutrient nonsense? If it was extremely nutritious, then it would have been used by many alchemists as fertilizer.”

Huangfu Hao added: “Brother Qing makes a lot of sense. I haven’t heard of such a thing before. The usage of Corruption Ward Sacred Water is common knowledge to all alchemists. In my

opinion, Brother Qing's special mix has great effects. When the flower's evil properties disappear, it will turn into a divine flower."

Qing Yu became a lot more lively and proud and arched his chest after hearing Huangfu Hao. He stared intensely at Li Qiye with a pressing momentum.

Huangfu Hao was called the fifth young alchemy prodigy in the current generation, so no one dared to question his alchemy skills as his words carried a lot of weight.

Thus, when Huangfu Hao voiced his support for Qing Yu, all the spectating alchemists looked towards Li Qiye.

Many of them were already unhappy with him, so a barrage of attacks came right after Huangfu Hao's comment: "Being good at pill refinement doesn't mean you know how to plant. The alchemy dao is separated into these things for a reason. If you are no good at plant cultivation, then don't spout nonsense and try to destroy someone else's reputation."

Another alchemist sneered: "That's right, everyone knows that the sacred water is meant for dispelling evil, so Young Noble Qing Yu's application of it to grow the Ominous Star Flower is perfect. It is an incredible formula!"

One more verbally assaulted Li Qiye: "It is not enough just knowing the basics... Haha, it would be completely humiliating to let someone like this participate in the alchemy conference."

“Complete garbage!” At this time, Qing Yu was emboldened and coldly stared at Li Qiye: “If you don’t have any evidence, then don’t speak nonsense. Li Qiye, your earlier words are blatant defamation towards my Qing Clan’s reputation! It is not too late for you to apologize. Otherwise, my clan will not go easy on someone who tried to maliciously stain our reputation!”

Earlier, Qing Yu was suppressed by Madam Zi Yan’s imperial aura and couldn’t do anything about it, but now, he became much more aggressive after latching onto Li Qiye’s weakness. He would never let go of this rare chance and would take advantage of this opportunity for his counterattack! He would never let go until he completely defeated Li Qiye. If the situation allowed it, he would even kill Li Qiye!

At this time, Huangfu Hao spoke: “The dao of alchemy is a serious study, so one should conduct themselves carefully. Do not utter words carelessly without thought.”

Huangfu Hao’s status and prestige were great. His showing of solidarity not only made Qing Yu bolder, it even caused the other alchemists who were initially unhappy with Li Qiye to want to challenge him.

Li Qiye was now under attack by the crowd, causing Madam Zi Yan’s brows to furrow. How could she not understand what Qing Yu, Huangfu Hao, and the other young alchemists were trying to do?

She wanted to back Li Qiye up, but he waved his sleeve to signal her not to. He smiled and said: “My words are proof.”

“Your words are proof?” Qing Yu sneered and said: “Your irresponsible defamation is proof? Hmph, this Ominous Star Flower is now harmless thanks to the Qing Clan’s unique fertilizing strand. It has been growing here for several years! And not only has it been growing at an incredible speed, it hasn’t even harmed a fly!”

“All of this is proof that the Ominous Star Flower has been dispelled of its evil affinity and is slowly growing into a divine flower. So now, how can you say that the flower is still the same? You are jealous of our Qing Clan’s unique mix and want to destroy our reputation. If you do not make this clear, our Qing Clan will not let you off so easily!” At this point, Qing Yu drew closer to Li Qiye with a frightening momentum, wanting to push him to the very edge.

“This is true!” With Huangfu Hao’s support, all the other alchemists quickly rode the wave as well. One of them said: “Lacking even the most common of knowledge yet you still dare to spew arrogant drivel and defame the Qing Clan. A treacherous man like this should be punished!”

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t mind the brigade branding against him. He asked: “Then you must be very confident with the Qing Clan’s unique mix?”

Qing Yu smirked in response: “Hmph! Actions speak louder than words. No matter how sly you might be with words, you cannot

deny the truth that our Qing Clan's mix has cured the flower of its vicious nature."

Li Qiye slowly replied: "If you want the truth, then I shall give it to you. In my knowledge, the Ominous Star Flower is very sensitive to loud screams. Whether it has changed or not, you can give it a shot."

Qing Yu's pupils narrowed while looking at Li Qiye. He drily said: "Really now?"

Li Qiye smiled and waved his palm in the air back and forth to say: "This is the case as far as I know, but I suggest that you do not try it since it won't end well."

"Is that so?" Qing Yu coldly sneered while gazing at Li Qiye: "Since you put it that way, I want to try it even more. What would you do if your method fails?"

Qing Yu clearly didn't want to let this go until Li Qiye accepted defeat.

"What do you want me to do?" Li Qiye replied with a grin.

Qing Yu suggested with a smirk: "Very simple, it'll be the same as before. If you are right about it being an act, then I deserve death from being attacked by the flower; it would be because my dao of alchemy was insufficient. However, if you are wrong... Not only did you stain our reputation, you also caused trouble and

unfounded defamation, so you have to feed yourself to your cauldron's Fire Source."

Madam Zi Yan's expression sank after hearing this. Qing Yu's approach was taking things too far; it was apparent that he wanted to kill Li Qiye.

All the other alchemists held their breaths in anticipation. This was a life or death gamble and not something to be laughed about. Although many of them didn't like Li Qiye, it wasn't to the extent where they would wish death upon him.

They didn't say anything else to fuel the fire now that Qing Yu voiced his desire to kill Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, after voicing his support, Huangfu Hao only smiled while calmly watching things play out by the side. If necessary, he would interfere again to fan the flames.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and smiled in the face of the repeated attempts of Qing Yu wanting to kill him.

People who were familiar with Li Qiye would shudder with fear since this expression meant that Li Qiye intended to kill.

Li Qiye smiled and waved his hands to say: "I'm afraid that's no good. In my opinion, this Ominous Star Flower has flourished very well and it might take your life if this goes sour."

“Hahaha, I should thank you for your concern.” Qing Yu sneered: “But there is no need, I trust my Qing Clan’s unique mix. If you are afraid to die, then just say it. It is not too late to kneel and beg for forgiveness. This would still be much better than losing your life.”

Chapter 651: Man-Eating Ominous Star Flower

Qing Yu became more and more unreasonable, to the disapproval of Madam Zi Yan. Li Qiye was an honored guest of the country, yet Qing Yu was humiliating him like this. This was a deliberate act challenging her. If it wasn't for Li Qiye stopping her just a moment ago, she would have personally taken action.

Li Qiye gently sighed and put on a helpless appearance, but the shots had been fired so he let it go and said: "If you really want to bet, then I can't do anything about it. Let's do it and let it be up to fate."

Qing Yu couldn't help but sneer after seeing Li Qiye's appearance. At this time, he felt his victory was assured, and Li Qiye was pretty much a dead man in his eyes.

"Don't worry, fueling a Fire Source isn't a painful death, you will be burnt into ashes in a split second." Qing Yu coldly said with a clear gloating look.

Li Qiye said: "If this is how it has to be, then start. Just make a screaming sound."

Qing Yu sneered while looking at Li Qiye to say: "Since you are anxiously waiting to reincarnate, I'll send you off."

With that, he let out a long scream with a considerable

sharpness. The moment the scream came out, there was no change in the dormant Ominous Star Flower. Qing Yu then let out a loud laugh and pointed at Li Qiye to say: “Li, now it is your turn to fuel the Fire Source...”

“Ohh...” But at this second, before Qing Yu could finish, the flower suddenly rushed forward. The pistil of the flower opened its mouth like a bowl of blood and swallowed half of Qing Yu’s body in an instant.

“Noo...” Qing Yu’s wail came from inside the flower, but it was too late. The flower was like a hungry beast with a growing stomach and swallowed him entirely. In the blink of an eye, Qing Yu was nowhere to be found. The only thing that was left was the sound of chewing as the flower gorged on its hearty meal.

After it finished chewing, the flower let out a popping sound like a belch. It didn’t do anything afterward and acted just like before as if nothing had happened.

This sudden development left all the alchemists present aghast since it happened too quickly. They were sure of Qing Yu’s victory and how nothing would happen, so who would have thought that Qing Yu would be swallowed whole by the flower where not even his corpse would be left behind?

Such a scary and unexpected scene would, of course, leave all the alchemists in fear.

“Oh god...” Eventually, all the alchemists calmed down and

retreated with horrified and blanched expressions as if they had just seen a ghost. Suddenly, all of them stayed far away from the Ominous Star Flower. Even Qing Yu was swallowed in one gulp by this flower, so if they were close, perhaps they would be next and get devoured by the flower without leaving behind a body.

Even Huangfu Hao was shocked by this development. Although he supported Qing Yu, he essentially didn't care for Qing Yu's outcome. Huangfu Hao only wanted to use him to test Li Qiye.

He didn't expect for Li Qiye to be right — for the flower to swallow Qing Yu whole. Of course, he couldn't care less about Qing Yu, he only wanted to learn more about Li Qiye's abilities.

As for a Demon King like Madam Zi Yan, she stood there unperturbed. With her power, she was definitely able to save Qing Yu. However, he was courting death, so why would she do so and offend Li Qiye, causing him to be unhappy?

Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh a bit. How could anyone in this world be more knowledgeable about spirit medicines and grasses than him? The flower was extremely sensitive to shrieks; the moment someone screamed, it would immediately attack the creature that emitted the sound! There were alchemical reasonings behind this that someone of Qing Yu's level couldn't understand.

“Aizz, you got the worst out of it since you didn't listen to the wise. Like I said, it was better not to bet, but you didn't trust me. Look what happened now, you've even thrown your life away, a sad death with no burial.” Li Qiye smiled and calmly said while waving his hand dismissively.

It would be strange if Li Qiye would forgive Qing Yu after his malicious actions. Only death awaited him the moment he wanted to kill Li Qiye.

At this point, the alchemists present couldn't help but take in deep breaths while looking at the Ominous Star Flower before them, overwhelmed by a creepy sensation. At this time, flashing starlight still came from the flower in a beautiful fashion as if nothing had happened.

But now, none of the alchemists dared to approach it. They understood that its vicious nature had not changed and would still hunt its prey.

Just like Li Qiye had said, this was only an act, and the flower only wanted to absorb the sacred water for its nutritious properties.

The other alchemists were not only anxious, they were also dumbfounded. Earlier, they thought that Qing Yu had won for sure and that his logic was sound since it was based on common knowledge privy to all alchemists. They didn't expect that the truth was far from it.

At this moment, the common sense that they were used to had been shattered by Li Qiye, leaving them in disbelief.

The entire scene inside the alchemy garden was now silent besides the howl of the gentle breeze. Many alchemists here

couldn't help but glance at Li Qiye.

Even if these alchemists were annoyed with Li Qiye earlier, at this moment, they were aware that Li Qiye was someone who was actually capable. Otherwise, the Giant Bamboo Country wouldn't have chosen him so easily. Those who sneered at him earlier shuddered and felt fortunate to not have been the one who tested the waters. Otherwise, they would have taken Qing Yu's place and end up being devoured by the flower.

The only person who was calm, perhaps, was Madam Zi Yan since she saw Li Qiye's peerless alchemy skill with her own eyes. Qing Yu couldn't compare to Li Qiye, so his end was within expectations.

"One can only say that with such low alchemy standards, being eaten by the Ominous Star Flower is no surprise." Li Qiye smiled and looked at the seemingly calm flower while leisurely saying: "It seems that the flower won't need to eat for some time now."

"You tricked him!" At this time, a cold voice came from Huangfu Hao: "You already knew this would be the result, so you urged him to his death!"

Li Qiye turned around to look at him with one eye and nonchalantly said: "So what? I only killed one person, what is there to be alarmed about? Those who provoke me should come to understand that they are being suicidal."

Li Qiye's domineering reply caused many alchemists to shudder,

especially those who sneered at him earlier. They subconsciously took several steps back to create some distance between themselves and Li Qiye. They didn't want to die a miserable death like Qing Yu.

“You are too cruel...” Huangfu Hao's expression sank as he coldly said: “Someone who kills their peers like this will not be tolerated by the world!”

Huangfu Hao's rhetoric carried an air of righteousness. He simply wanted to use this chance to propel his own agenda.

At this time, Li Qiye was too lazy to look at him again. He looked around the garden and slowly spoke: “Don't pretend to be a defender of justice in front of me. While my mood is still good, instantly scam back to your Huangfu Clan with your tail tucked between your legs before I paint this paradise with blood. If you truly provoke me, then you won't be the only one dead, your entire Huangfu Clan will disappear from this world!”

Everyone gasped after hearing this declaration. It was truly too bold and caused the alchemists here to glance at each other. They didn't expect for Li Qiye to dare say such a thing to Huangfu Hao.

Huangfu Hao wasn't only the fifth alchemy prodigy, he was also a brilliant cultivator. He had reached Heavenly King, allowing him to look down upon the younger generation.

Moreover, he was also the First Young Noble of the Huangfu Clan, thus his prestige rang far across the Alchemy Realm.

But right now, Li Qiye didn't care for Huangfu Hao and opened his mouth to declare his murderous intent. Moreover, he even announced his intention of eradicating the Huangfu Clan to the roots — such a claim was far too arrogant.

A few alchemists here felt that Li Qiye didn't know the immensity of the heaven and earth and could even be described as ignorant. Of course, some alchemists also gloated with cold smiles. Li Qiye provoking Huangfu Hao in such a suicidal manner was a good thing for them.

Even Madam Zi Yan, standing by his side, had to smile helplessly. She herself thought that Li Qiye's words were too outrageous.

Killing Huangfu Hao was not difficult, but wanting to destroy the entire Huangfu Clan was far more challenging. Even their Giant Bamboo Country couldn't do so.

Huangfu Hao's expression quickly turned extremely ugly upon hearing this. He was the heaven's proud son of the Alchemy Realm, a prodigy respected by everyone no matter where he went! Their Huangfu Clan was a top ranked great power that had an alliance with the Alchemy Kingdom. Not too many existences dared to touch their clan in the Alchemy Realm!

“Well...” Huangfu Hao was enraged and replied with a cold smile: “Naive fool, I want to see what you can do! Today, I will personally skin you and pull out your tendons!”

Having said that, he took a step forward. Earlier, he wanted to find an excuse to teach Li Qiye a lesson, but he didn't expect Li Qiye to be so bold and choose to meet the blade's edge head on. This was actually perfect for Huangfu Hao.

With a sneer, he raised his foot and instantly stepped over towards Li Qiye's direction. As a Heavenly King, his stomp carried an untouchable momentum like a gigantic mountain crashing down. He wielded an attitude as if Li Qiye was an insignificant ant in his eyes that couldn't reach the apex. One foot alone was enough to crush Li Qiye to death.

However, Li Qiye didn't even bat an eye. He slightly stomped on the ground with his foot and shouted: "Scram!"

The moment his words came out, a series of rumbles appeared. It was as if there was a dragon underground. One could hear a crash, and suddenly, the muddy soil seemed to turn into a dragon that soared into the sky. In an instant, a shadow snapped forward like a long whip.

Chapter 652: Green Bamboo

“Pah!” Huangfu Hao, who seemed to be a gigantic mountain stomping down, was suddenly smashed into a bloody pulp. “Ah!” Before he could react, his entire body was slapped away by this whip-like shadow. He was blown out of the capital and sent all the way towards the horizon before eventually disappearing in the farthest reaches of the sky.

His shrill scream filled the sky after being whipped and blown away. Even if he didn’t die, he would still be at death’s door!

After blowing Huangfu Hao away with one blow, both the dragon-shaped soil and the item that resembled a whip disappeared underground without a trace.

“That was...” After seeing this whip-like item, Madam Zi Yan was astounded. Amidst its action, she noticed that the whip was actually a bamboo root. To be more exact, it was a branch connected to the root. Madam Zi Yan herself used to be a violet bamboo tree, so after seeing the bamboo root, she immediately thought about many things.

The other alchemists didn’t know what was going on since they were scared silly. They actually thought that there was a dragon hiding underground. They couldn’t calm down as they shuddered at the thought of Huangfu Hao, a heaven’s proud son at the Heavenly King realm, being swatted away like a fly by the shadow underground. How could they not be shocked by this development? Was there really a dragon underground?

Of course, there was no dragon beneath the soil. This earth was personally sealed by Li Qiye and strengthened by many wise sages, including Godkings. An extremely formidable law suppressed the area below.

After stepping into the garden, Li Qiye seemed to be enjoying the spirit grasses, but the truth was that he was measuring this land and calculating the changes to once again take complete control of the gigantic seal underground!

At this location, Huangfu Hao causing trouble was akin to courting death. Li Qiye didn't even have to do anything and could still easily kill him.

“Could that have been...” Madam Zi Yan regained her composure, but she still carried a shocked expression. She lifted her head up to look at the giant bamboo that pierced the firmament.

“You guessed correctly.” At this time, while looking at the madam, Li Qiye slightly raised his brows to say: “That was a branch of the bamboo's root, just a tiny one.”

This answer left the madam frozen. Although the giant bamboo tree was their Divine Guardian, for millions of years, no one had seen it take action. From the time she became a disciple of the country, she had never witnessed any movement from the tree.

The giant bamboo tree had always been the same, staying high above the clouds without any changes as if it would forever be this

way for many more millions of years to come.

However, today, an outsider like Li Qiye came and spurred the giant bamboo deity to take action. Under Li Qiye's control, a small root actually came and swatted Huangfu Hao away to the ends of the earth. This was simply unthinkable!

While she was still in a daze, Li Qiye moved forward and instantly crossed the alchemy garden. At this moment, he was standing at the end of the garden, and in front of him was the path towards the Bamboo Garden.

Even though the two gardens were connected, the Bamboo Garden was currently full of rippling radiance. The giant bamboo in the sky poured down little specks of light that came together to form an extremely realistic ward and sealed off the entire Bamboo Garden. No one could cross this barrier to enter the garden.

Li Qiye looked at this barrier ahead and then the giant bamboo in the sky. He couldn't help but laugh as old scenes started to play out in his mind.

At this time, the endless sea of memories in his forehead shot out a golden law. "Bang!" This law struck the barrier and dissolved it before swiftly turning these flashing runic lines into a door.

The door opened as Li Qiye stepped inside the barrier and into the Bamboo Garden. After he entered, the door disappeared while the barrier remained without any changes, prohibiting entry for anyone else.

“Impossible...” After seeing this scene, Madam Zi Yan was horrified and had to take several steps back from the shock.

How could she not be shocked? This Bamboo Garden had always been a forbidden ground in her country. For millions of years, besides the progenitor, she had never heard of anyone else being able to enter the garden.

However, an outsider like Li Qiye could easily walk inside without using force. It was as if the Bamboo Garden specifically allowed him entry. It became even clearer to the madam after seeing the door formed on the barrier. This meant that the garden accepted Li Qiye, and more importantly, the deity of her country accepted Li Qiye.

For tens of millions of years, the Giant Bamboo Country had produced many brilliant geniuses along with wise rulers. However, outside of their progenitor, none of these people had been accepted by the garden and the deity. Despite all of this and to the dismay of the madam, an outsider like Li Qiye was accepted. She even saw it with her own eyes!

As for the other alchemists in the alchemy garden, they didn't know what was going on. They actually thought that Li Qiye was a disciple of the Giant Bamboo Country.

“Fellow guests, today was truly a grand event where everyone took the time to join us here.” The madam composed herself and immediately told all the alchemists in the garden: “However, some

unexpected events happened and there was a misunderstanding, resulting in spilled blood, so we can't do anything except end the party before the appointed time.”

At this moment, she formally ended the party. After all, this sudden development caught even a Royal Lord like her unprepared.

The alchemists here didn't dare to say anything else. Qing Yu was dead and Huangfu Hao's fate was unknown. They knew a storm was brewing after such a big event occurred, so at this time, many of them quickly left the party.

After all the alchemists were sent out, Madam Zi Yan immediately went to the end of the alchemy garden and stood in front of the entrance, the barrier to the Bamboo Garden.

She took a very deep breath and reached out towards the barrier. She wanted to see if she could enter the Bamboo Garden or not. Unfortunately, with a bang, she was immediately repelled by an extremely powerful force from the barrier.

After she regained her balance, she took another deep breath and sent out a command: “Summon all eighteen Demon Monarchs here without delay!”

Meanwhile, Li Qiye had entered the Bamboo Garden and only saw an indistinct scene. The entire garden was immersed in a worldly energy so thick that it had nearly condensed into fog.

Such thick worldly energy was frightening. This level of density couldn't be found even in the ancestral grounds of the great powers. Anyone would feel relaxed in this place; all of their pores would open as if they were about to flutter away into the sky like an immortal.

By standing in this location, even those with the most ordinary of talents would be able to feel the laws of this ground. Those who were more talented could resonate and become close with the grand dao, and the dao would answer back.

This place could only be described as a treasure ground, one great enough to be coveted by all great powers!

“So tens of millions of years of saturation could turn a regular location into a sacred ground...” Li Qiye stood amidst this fog and felt the beat of the earth as well as the Elegant Azure Grand Vein beneath the ground. It was as if this earth was hiding a dragon, and it caused him to become sentimental.

Long ago, this land was only an ordinary location, but after a certain era, Li Qiye planted a green bamboo here. At that time, the kings heeded his call; Virtuous Paragons and Godkings all gathered here just to strengthen this ground. Many invincible existences created a supreme seal at this place.

In that year, Li Qiye used an extremely heaven-defying method to alter this land. He gathered the worldly energy from the Elegant Azure Grand Vein and moved it here so that the entire vein would cultivate the green bamboo planted by him.

As he walked around the garden, it appeared to be a forest with splashing rivers. Many flickering shadows were cast from the tree. Flowers and grasses were silently blooming with new green sprouts growing everywhere.

This place was full of life and vitality. Here was a scene of tranquility like a paradise amidst this vast world, an escape from the rowdy and mundane world.

Walking in this place allowed one to be immersed in the worldly energy, giving birth to the illusion that this was a land of immortals.

Li Qiye took a leisurely stroll through the garden and eventually found himself standing before a bamboo tree. This tree was beyond gigantic, and after millions of years, he had finally seen it once again.

It had a lush green color like jade. At a glance, it had a green and glossy glow just like a supreme immortal piece of jade.

As the flow of time raged on, this bamboo was still as shiny and moving as before. There was no sign of aging as if it could live for millions of more years without any problem.

When one stood before this unreasonably large tree, they would feel that there was a gigantic wall before them. One couldn't calculate how many people it would take to surround such a huge tree.

Li Qiye couldn't help but reach out with his hand to gently stroke the jade-like bamboo tree's trunk. He sighed before murmuring: "How many years have passed... When I brought you out from that Ominous Ground, you were only a seedling, but now you have become a deity."

The bamboo tree's shadow swayed while rustling its leaves high in the sky. Its branches fluttered back and forth gently as if answering Li Qiye.

Since Li Qiye used a law from his sea of memories to open the barrier, the bamboo tree that had turned into a deity naturally knew what had happened and who was coming.

Chapter 653: Your Disappearing Fragrance

Li Qiye gently caressed the giant bamboo and couldn't help but gently sigh in his mind. He suddenly became sad for no reason and murmured: "Not everything in this world can be perfect. Although you can't turn your dao into sentience, why is it not a good thing for you? Tens of millions of years would only be a blink of an eye. You can watch the seas turn into mulberry fields, and all the grievances and feuds in the mundane world are just ephemeral clouds and puffs of smoke."

The green lights coming from the tree slightly shifted as if it was listening and responding to Li Qiye.

He gently leaned against the tree and closed his eyes. At this moment, he felt relaxed and carefree; at this second, his mind gained a rare moment of serenity. Many things had happened in the past millions of years. Although he could cause a storm in the Nine Worlds with a simple sway of his hand, although a simple gesture from him could massacre myriad realms, although his anger had caused the world to tremble, although the state of his eyes could change day and night... For the past millions of years, he had too many things to do: kill, battle, scheme, venture, train talents...

For millions of years, besides his deep slumbers, it was as if he had never slept before. His time seemed to pass by slowly as if each moment was an eternity.

At this time, he was sitting comfortably with peace of mind. Here, he didn't need to think too much; he didn't need to be

vigilant against anything. Although he had countless secrets, he was able to relax at this time.

The giant bamboo seemed to be very quiet as well. Its green light became gentle as if it was quietly protecting Li Qiye.

After a long period of time, Li Qiye opened his eyes and reorganized his thoughts. He couldn't help but smile while slowly walking around the bamboo tree.

The moment he made it halfway around, he saw a pond before him, emitting a gentle light. Before one even got close, they would feel the approaching water vapor permeate deep into their body.

The water in the pond was a collection of dew that dripped down from an old root of the tree. It took a very long time for this old root's dew to slowly accumulate into an entire pond.

“People in this world always talk about the Immortal Nectar, but how many of them have actually seen it? How many of them know that ‘Immortal Nectar’ is merely a name?” Li Qiye chuckled after seeing the pond.

This was the Giant Bamboo Country's Immortal Nectar. For many generations, many people of the country had tried to find the legendary Immortal Nectar, but all had failed. Every single location in the country had been searched, but no one was able to find it.

The Immortal Nectar was merely a name. Only those who were unaware would call this water Immortal Nectar. In fact, there were many types of Immortal Nectars, and the difference in rankings was quite great.

Li Qiye didn't linger by the pond. He continued to tread forward around the pond of nectar and finally stood before a small cabin.

This cabin was not big and was also very simple. However, after millions of years, it was as if it hadn't changed at all; it was still as clean and bright as before.

Countless images appeared in his mind while gazing at the little cabin ahead. The graceful and lively young girl that was as gentle as water and oh-so considerate... As he found himself lost in this scene, it felt as if all of it happened just yesterday, even though millions of years had passed.

"Squeak." He opened the door and, amidst his daze, he could still hear the two words "young master" being tenderly cried out just like that year. The two words "young master" made his heart so happy!

This room was still clean, and the table and chairs inside were still the same. The bookshelf by the wall was still stocked neatly with old scrolls and trunks of books.

"Yan'er... you were not able to let go back then." Li Qiye couldn't help but let out a light smile. In the end, he could only sigh softly with a sad and helpless sensation while saying: "Those years lasted

for ages... I once ruled myriad worlds, and some people even said that there was nothing I couldn't do. However, the truth is, since time immemorial, frustration arose countless times. Countless people left my side, and I couldn't keep them even if I wanted to."

In the quiet little cabin, Li Qiye's eyes were like a flowing river running across each corner of the room. This place was once filled with his presence.

Before he knew it, he was standing next to the bookshelf that housed many old scrolls. He couldn't help but open some of them.

He easily read the words they contained as old scenes appeared right before his eyes. It was as if the past had struck him, as if it were yesterday, as if he was reliving past events.

If Madam Zi Yan saw these old scrolls, her soul would be scared away from her body because all of these things were secrets of the Giant Bamboo Country that were never passed down. Some of them were merit laws and techniques that even her country didn't have.

Li Qiye only casually flipped through these secrets; they were not much to him. The merit laws and techniques that belonged to the Giant Bamboo Country mostly came from him. Only a small portion was created by its progenitor.

Back in that time, its progenitor was only an ordinary girl. Li Qiye let her stay by his side and led her down the path of the grand dao while teaching her supreme arts.

Due to various restraints, Li Qiye didn't train her as a potential Immortal Emperor. Nevertheless, she stayed by his side as his maid and took care of his daily needs. Li Qiye, at the same time, gave his all and taught her the best techniques.

Although she couldn't become an Immortal Emperor, her life and skill were extremely frightening and completely heaven-defying.

Li Qiye gently went through all of the scrolls on the shelf once before putting them back.

By the window, a [guqin](#) could be found. The sight of it caused Li Qiye to gently sigh. He sat before it and took a deep breath to calm his emotions before lifting his hands to play a melodious song that carried a free and relaxed temperament.

A guqin is a seven-string Chinese musical instrument that belongs to the zither family. This type of instrument has traditionally been favored by scholars and literati as an instrument of great subtlety and refinement.

The melody was enchanting, and the tune seemed to be taking Li Qiye back to the past. Back then, Yan'er's musical skill was also taught by him. Whenever he had something on his mind, Yan'er would play a tune for him. Now, when he played that old song again, he couldn't help but think about the unforgettable past more and more.

Some time passed and the song finally ended. At this time, Li Qiye paused and was lost in his nostalgia. The scenery remained

the same, but the people were gone...

Outside the Bamboo Garden, Madam Zi Yan summoned all eighteen Demon Monarchs. The moment they received the urgent order, they immediately came running.

At the same time, she ordered that besides her and the monarchs, no one else could enter the alchemy garden. It could be said that at this time, the entire garden was barricaded completely.

“That... that can’t be real!” After hearing the madam’s words, the Eagle Demon Monarch couldn’t help but take a deep breath and display a shocked expression.

In fact, all the other monarchs were aghast as well. To them, this was an impossible matter.

“How can this be? For millions of years, the legends stated that besides the progenitor, no one else has been able to enter the Bamboo Garden.” Ancient Pine emotionally stated.

Although they knew that Madam Zi Yan was absolutely not lying, they still found such a matter hard to believe and couldn’t accept it in a short period of time.

For many generations, even invincible Virtuous Paragons from the Giant Bamboo Country had tried to enter the Bamboo Garden, but they couldn’t successfully do so. And yet, an outsider like Li

Qiye, a nameless junior, was able to enter as easily as flipping one's palm.

If such words didn't come from Madam Zi Yan, then the monarchs would have never believed it.

“He didn't forcefully enter and instead went through a portal — this means that our deity has accepted him.” Madam Zi Yan said in a solemn tone.

The monarchs glanced at each other in astonishment. One of them said: “This is incredible... Our country has produced many wise rulers and geniuses, but none were accepted by our bamboo deity. Yet now, an outsider was able to enter. I just can't believe it!”

“Your Majesty, what should we do now?” Another monarch had to ask.

At this point, all the monarchs looked at Madam Zi Yan and awaited her orders. They felt a bit helpless when an outsider had been recognized by their bamboo deity.

Madam Zi Yan looked at the monarchs in a serious manner and said: “Do fellow monarchs have any opinions? Go ahead voice them.”

Ancient Pine pondered for a bit before speaking: “Your Majesty, in my opinion, this is a good thing and is killing two birds with one

stone. Young Noble Li's dao of alchemy is peerless, so it is extremely hard for us to keep him. But now, with the acceptance of the deity, maybe we can keep him here."

"Your Majesty, I feel Brother Ancient Pine's opinion is right." The alchemist monarch added: "Since no one from our country was able to obtain the deity's acceptance for so long while Young Noble Li was able to, this means that he has fateful ties with our Giant Bamboo Country. Perhaps this is the will of the heavens, perhaps our progenitor in the heavens is answering our call so that we can have a chance to stand proudly on top of all the races..."

"... Imagine Young Noble Li's alchemy skill on top of being recognized by our deity! Maybe this means that our country will be led by Young Noble Li to a new glorious peak. Your Majesty, in my opinion, this is an extremely good omen and a reason for our country to rejoice."

Chapter 654: Which Path To Take?

Regarding this affair, the alchemy monarch and Ancient Pine held an optimistic attitude.

Another Demon Monarch also agreed: “Your Majesty, this is indeed an auspicious omen. Just think about it. If our country could have an Alchemy Emperor, then even the Alchemy Kingdom would respect us. Moreover, millions of years have gone by without anyone gaining the acceptance of our deity, so maybe Young Noble Li is the bringer of prosperity and the ruler of our Giant Bamboo.”

“I’m afraid we need to be more careful about this matter.” The Eagle Demon Monarch pondered for a moment and said: “If Young Noble Li agrees to stay in our country, then I will wholeheartedly agree to this. However, for him to act freely as the bringer of prosperity... This requires further consideration. We don’t even know of his background.”

When the title “bringer of prosperity” came up again, the monarch who spoke earlier had to cough with a slightly embarrassed expression. He misspoke earlier because Madam Zi Yan was the current Royal Lord of the country. If Li Qiye becomes the new ruler of prosperity, then where would Madam Zi Yan go?

“Brother Eagle is right, maybe Young Noble Li only came for our Bamboo Garden.” A different monarch agreed with Eagle’s view and said: “It is not that we don’t trust Young Noble Li, but we really know nothing about his origin. What if he came with a hidden agenda?”

“Although the phrase ‘bringer of prosperity’ is somewhat inappropriate...” The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch quickly tried to defuse the situation: “However, I think it is very unlikely for Young Noble to come with an agenda. Not to mention that his dao of alchemy is beyond the reach of all the sects, we can take a step back and pretend that Young Noble came here for our Bamboo Garden. However, is this at all plausible? Let’s forget about the outsiders, even we don’t know what is inside the garden outside of our deity. We’ll take another step back and assume that Young Noble Li really came for our garden, but this in itself is impossible since everyone knows that outside of our progenitor, no one else had been able to enter before...

“... Even our strongest Virtuous Paragon couldn’t enter. Think about it, could Young Noble Li force his way in? We can all see that his entrance was permitted by our deity. Even though our deity had not taken any action for millions of years, as disciples of Giant Bamboo, each and every one of us know that it had always been protecting us. It can see through all things and understand them clearer than all of us. It definitely has its reasons for accepting Young Noble Li.”

In this situation, Ancient Pine was still supporting Li Qiye. Intuition told him that Li Qiye would definitely bring about a miracle and become a great figure.

At this time, the eighteen monarchs were stuck in a dilemma as they couldn’t make a decision. Putting aside Li Qiye’s mysterious background, it was difficult to make Li Qiye stay. Ordinary conditions would not be able to tempt Li Qiye, and perhaps only by handing over the reigns of the country would he be willing to stay.

However, this situation has its own problems. There would always be unease in the monarchs' minds by letting someone with an unknown origin become their ruler.

There was another problem. If Li Qiye were to become the ruler of prosperity for their country, then what would Madam Zi Yan do? She was a wise ruler with many notable contributions. As long as she was still on the throne, they couldn't make her abdicate since it would be quite unfair.

“That’s fine.” Madam Zi Yan revealed a calm and gentle smile. She was aware of the current deadlock, so she slightly nodded and said: “If Young Noble Li truly wants to stay and take the reins, then I will happily abdicate for a better ruler. Until now, our Giant Bamboo Country had always let the most capable become our ruler — this is our tradition.”

“But, Your Majesty...” After her words came out, the eighteen monarchs couldn't help but become shocked. She was a wise and open-minded ruler who was always kind to her subjects. Up till this point, she had been adored and supported by the entire country, so if she had to resign under such a condition, then many loyal subjects as well as the eighteen monarchs would feel ashamed for having done her wrong.

This conversation might have seemed like a forced abdication, but the monarchs had no intent on doing so. However, if the only way to keep Li Qiye was for her to abdicate... How would the monarchs choose?

“For our Giant Bamboo’s grand plan, my abdication is acceptable.” Madam Zi Yan calmly spoke. She was indeed extraordinary and had a will that couldn’t be found in others.

“What if Young Noble Li does not wish to stay?” At this time, another monarch presented a different view.

This question caused the monarchs to glance at each other while contemplating. Even the madam pondered for a moment. It seemed that everything was just one-sided and wishful thinking on their part so far; they still didn’t know if Li Qiye wanted to stay or not.

Time passed very quickly. In the blink of an eye, five days had come and gone. Inside the Bamboo Garden beneath the giant bamboo, Li Qiye withdrew his true fate treasure, the rock from the Divine Dragon Mountain back in the Metal Realm of the Prime Ominous Grave. At this time, the stone itself had turned into Li Qiye’s fate treasure.

After undergoing continuous transformations, it had now turned into a grand seal. Li Qiye named his fate treasure “World Seal”! After some research, he had understood the mysticisms of his World Seal.

At this time, Li Qiye spent another four days to finally imprint another seal on the giant bamboo. He gently touched the bamboo, causing the green lights from it to flutter. It poured down a gentle light as if it was answering Li Qiye.

Li Qiye gently sighed. Although the bamboo didn't have intelligence and couldn't talk, to him, this type of exchange was more than enough. This green bamboo was taken from an Ominous Ground and was personally planted here by him. He gathered the Elegant Azure Grand Vein to this place where the bamboo took root.

Who could understand it more than him? They didn't need words since this was more than enough.

After putting the World Seal away, Li Qiye finally turned around to look back at the little cabin in the far distance. That place carried too many peaceful memories. Eventually, he sighed once more and went out of the Bamboo Garden.

The moment he appeared outside, he immediately saw Madam Zi Yan and the eighteen monarchs. The truth was that they had been protecting this place for the last five days.

The group immediately stood up and all eyes fell upon Li Qiye. Suddenly, the atmosphere became unprecedentedly heavy.

At this moment, it was unclear to them whether Li Qiye was friend or foe. Perhaps under such a tense atmosphere, one wrong move would result in a fight.

“What is it? Do you wish to fight?” Li Qiye stared at the madam along with the monarchs. He was still at ease since he didn't mind if they wanted to take action.

The monarchs couldn't help but look at each other before shifting their gazes towards Madam Zi Yan. At the moment, they still wanted to listen to the madam's orders.

She took a deep breath and eventually calmed her mind. A pair of eyes as smooth as flowing water fell upon Li Qiye as she slowly spoke: "Young Noble Li, we do not wish to do so, we only hope that Young Noble Li can stay and lead our Giant Bamboo Country. Young Noble has obtained the recognition of our bamboo deity — this has immense significance to our country."

Li Qiye only chuckled after hearing Madam Zi Yan. He responded by casually throwing a bottle to her while lightly saying: "Take it."

"This is..." Madam Zi Yan caught the bottle and was taken aback. She couldn't help but look at Li Qiye since she didn't know what was inside.

Li Qiye didn't say anything and only stood there, smiling. Madam Zi Yan composed herself and quickly opened the bottle. The moment it was opened, a powerful aura rushed out. After recognizing what was inside, she began to shudder uncontrollably. She lifted her head and looked at Li Qiye then emotionally asked: "Could this be... Is this the legendary Immortal Nectar of our country?"

"Immortal Nectar!" The eighteen monarchs were astonished as well. They all had to take deep breaths. Even their country had never seen this nectar before, but now it appeared in Li Qiye's

hands.

“This treasure is extremely hard to come by. It’s a gift from the giant bamboo tree to the country! Be frugal since this bottle can last for several generations.” Li Qiye said in a nonchalant manner.

In this instance, the group couldn’t help but look at each other in confusion. They became a bit silly since they didn’t expect Li Qiye to give them something so precious.

Although they had never seen it before, they knew that this was something even an Alchemy Emperor from the Alchemy Kingdom had tried to find. One could imagine just how precious and priceless it must be, and yet, Li Qiye had just casually thrown it to them as if it was not enough to reach the apex.

While the rest of the group was in a daze, Li Qiye stretched his fatigued back and slowly said: “I’m tired, help me prepare a place to rest.”

The others calmed down and didn’t dare to delay his request. Under Madam Zi Yan’s command, the most quiet and comfortable courtyard inside the imperial palace was prepared for Li Qiye.

For the next few days, Li Qiye stayed in this courtyard. Outside of cultivation, he began to control the World Seal.

To a cultivator who wanted to reach the peak, their fate treasure was absolutely indispensable because this treasure could unleash

their true capabilities as well as their strongest battle power.

Many cultivators preferred to have stronger weapons. For example, nothing could be better than an Immortal Emperor True Treasure to them. However, for the ones with extraordinary ambition, this was not the case. Even if they had extremely powerful weapons such as Immortal Emperor True Treasures, at the end of the day, they still belonged to other people. This only created a sense of dependency and was not the correct path.

For tens of millions of years, those who eventually became Immortal Emperors ultimately relied on their own weapons to sweep through the Nine Worlds and obtain invincibility! It could be said that a qualified cultivator was one who could refine their own weapons so that they were capable of exerting their strongest fighting potential.

The type of cultivator who depended on someone else's weapon would never be able to reach the apex.

Chapter 655: Madam Zi Yan's Abdication

In the past few days, the eighteen monarchs didn't dare to come bother Li Qiye. Meanwhile, Madam Zi Yan came to see him every day. More often than not, she even personally took care of his daily accommodations.

It didn't stop there. Whenever Li Qiye was free, she would explain the current situation of the world and the Giant Bamboo Country to Li Qiye in great detail.

Today, she came to see him like always. Noticing that he was deep in meditation, she slowly sat down by his side.

A while later, Li Qiye opened his eyes and said with a smile: "Is there something else you want to tell me?"

"In the last two days, the Qing Clan has caused quite a stir. They demand justice from the Giant Bamboo Country for Qing Yu's death. They even swore that they would never let this go." Madam Zi Yan explained to Li Qiye.

"The truth is, you don't need to tell me these things." Li Qiye gently shook his head and said: "As the Royal Lord, I'm sure that you can deal with these matters in a satisfactory manner."

"Hmm..." Madam Zi Yan wanted to say something, but she paused for a bit before continuing: "You have only been here for a short amount of time and aren't familiar with many issues. This is a transitional period for you, so after you become used to it..."

Li Qiye interrupted her. He chuckled while looking at the madam before speaking: “Madam, don’t tell me you want me to become Giant Bamboo’s ruler?”

Li Qiye’s sudden interruption left her stunned for a bit. In fact, she had mentally prepared herself and was ready to hand over the Giant Bamboo Country to Li Qiye.

“I feel that you are right for it. For millions of years, outside of our progenitor, no one had ever been recognized by our Divine Guardian. Despite its inactivity, we all know that it has been shielding our country from war. There must be a reason why it chose you at this time. Besides, your dao of alchemy is peerless. And it’s not just me, all of the monarchs also feel that you can lead Giant Bamboo to the top of all the races.” Madam Zi Yan spoke in a serious manner. Her words were very sincere and came from her heart. She had plans to abdicate and was more than happy to do so as long as Li Qiye could lead the country down a more glorious path.

After hearing this, Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile. Then, he gently shook his head while saying: “Do you really think that I would become the Royal Lord of the country? Do you actually think that I came here just to take the reigns?”

This answer made the madam ponder for a moment before she was able to calm down and reply: “That is not what I meant. Although Young Noble Li might not have come for the Giant Bamboo Country’s throne, the Divine Guardian chose you. I trust that no one else is more suitable than you to become our ruler. I

also believe that with you taking the reigns in the future, the country will naturally become even more prosperous.”

Li Qiye smiled and said: “Your words are correct, but also incorrect.”

Madam Zi Yan always had a good temper, so she gently said: “Which parts are incorrect? Young Noble Li, please point me in the right direction.”

Li Qiye looked at this charming and beautiful woman ahead, a woman with an elegant and noble aura that didn’t take away from her gentleness. He couldn’t help but smile and say: “First, you are correct with regards to the country prospering in my hands. Under my control, the Giant Bamboo Country would certainly stand at the top of the Nine Worlds one day and look down with disdain upon all the other races.”

Anyone else would think Li Qiye was being too arrogant and didn’t understand the immensity of the heaven and earth. Across this world, not too many heaven’s proud sons would dare to proclaim this.

However, Madam Zi Yan still attentively listened in a quiet and gentle manner. This aura of hers, an aura as soft as water, was quite pleasing and would make others feel relaxed.

Li Qiye paused here for a bit before continuing: “Second, I will not take the Royal Lord position of your Giant Bamboo Country since I have no interest in it. And even if I were to take this

position, I wouldn't be able to take your country to the glorious peak."

Li Qiye's words puzzled the madam quite a bit. His firm rejection caught her by surprise. His dao of alchemy was peerless, and such a talent would be sought after by countless great powers. If anyone else were to face the choice of ruling the entire Giant Bamboo Country, then even if they didn't start salivating from temptation, they would at least hesitate a bit before declining.

However, Li Qiye didn't have the slightest bit of yearning. It was as if controlling an entire great power was only a trivial matter to him.

The madam calmed down and looked at Li Qiye to say: "I can understand Young Noble not wanting to become our Royal Lord to rule the country... However, like you said, if you are in control, you will be able to take us to the glorious peak with your abilities, yet your second statement contradicted the first. May you explain this?" She carefully considered his words. Others might think that Li Qiye was spouting arrogant nonsense, but not the madam.

Li Qiye looked at the elegant and noble woman before him; she did indeed resemble Yan'er in the past. He shifted his gaze and looked outside the window before slowly speaking: "The Giant Bamboo Country... This is a tranquil place, a land of peace. I do not wish to involve it in a bloody conquest. In the future, my path will be paved with blood and corpses... No matter how high the heavens might be, no matter how far myriad worlds are, I will kill my way to the very end. Because of this, let's leave this serene place how it is right now, [I do not want to tie it to my war chariot!](#)"

The last sentence means “I do not want to involve it with my conquest”, but I kept it more like the raw.

At this point, he couldn't help but sigh with some sadness in his heart.

At this moment, Madam Zi Yan couldn't help but feel a bit lost. It was as if she saw an illusion; on the solitary path of the dao, Li Qiye walked forward alone. Behind him was an endless sea of blood that contained the floating corpses of his enemies, and the gods from the capital of the immortals were wailing in anguish.

Eventually, her mind returned. She couldn't help but shudder as her heart skipped a beat. That illusion she just experienced was truly chillingly terrifying and caused her to feel that such an event would happen in the future.

“Another thing you are mistaken about, in my eyes, is that whether the Giant Bamboo Country is powerful or not doesn't matter. This place is a peaceful land that I love. If possible, I hope that one day, I will be able to stop and stay in this place.” Li Qiye said while looking at the madam.

She couldn't help but reply: “If that is the case, then why not stay now? I'm certain that the entire country would welcome you. You can think of the country as your home, and you can come and go as you please.”

“Home...” Li Qiye revealed a faint smile and gazed into the distance. After a while, he slightly shook his head and said: “It is

impossible for me.”

At this point, Li Qiye paused for a bit before looking at the madam and smiled: “If you are willing to come with me, I will be more than happy to take you. Follow me and, in the future, you will definitely see many sceneries from the top of the peak.”

Madam Zi Yan was stunned by these words. Any other girl who heard such a thing would think that Li Qiye was teasing or flirting with them.

However, Madam Zi Yan didn’t think so; she didn’t sense any intention to flirt or tease from the tone of his words. In fact, this was not his first time proposing this idea. Back at Ancient Pine’s palace, he had said something similar.

“Boom!” Right when Madam Zi Yan was still in a daze, a majestic aura suddenly appeared in the sky. It was so powerful that it was as if its billowing waves reached the heavens itself. This mighty force instantly flooded the earth and drowned the entire capital.

“What’s happening?” The unrivaled aura that appeared without any warning and loomed over the capital caused all the citizens and cultivators within to be frightened. Even Royal Nobles and Ancient Saints were quivering in fear.

“A Virtuous Paragon!” Madam Zi Yan suddenly stood up with a shocked expression at the appearance of this aura and exclaimed: “This is an ancestor from a great power!”

The Giant Bamboo's capital was a large city. In the contemporary times, ancestors from great powers would not easily show their face, but through the years, there would still be ancestors coming and going in this capital. However, no matter which great power they might be from, these ancestors wouldn't act in such a wanton manner. They wouldn't use their invincible aura to seemingly aim to suppress the entire capital.

This meant that the opponent wasn't merely arrogant and instead came with malicious intentions against the country.

"Virtuous Paragon?" Li Qiye only narrowed his eyes after sensing this aura; his expression was essentially unchanged. Even a Virtuous Paragon was not a big deal to him!

"Your Majesty, not good, not good." At this time, the Ancient Pine Demon Monarch came rushing in and saw Madam Zi Yan together with Li Qiye. He quickly said: "Your Majesty, something bad has happened."

"Demon Monarch, what happened? Why are you so nervous?" Madam Zi Yan asked in a serious tone.

In fact, even if the demon monarch was not in a panic, she would still know that something big had happened. An aura suddenly erupting from a Virtuous Paragon was a sign of suppression. This newcomer obviously bore malicious intent towards the Giant Bamboo Country.

"People from the Huangfu Clan came." Ancient Pine's expression

was quite unbearable to look at as he quickly said: “There are quite a few too. One ancestor is personally leading the group that consists of three high elders and five elders!”

Chapter 656: The Huangfu Clan's Vengeance

“So they are finally here?” Madam Zi Yan’s glare became serious as she tried to confirm the situation.

Ancient Pine quickly responded: “They still haven’t entered the capital and are staying on the outskirts. Their ancestor sent a message to Brother Eagle’s group and wants our Giant Bamboo Country to give an explanation regarding Huangfu Hao or face the consequences.”

It turned out that after being blown away from the capital, the Huangfu Clan expended a lot of effort before finding him. Huangfu Hao was found on the verge of death. Although he managed to survive, his wounds were quite grave, so he would be bed-stricken for some time.

The Huangfu Ancestor quickly brought Huangfu Hao back for treatment. After his wounds stabilized, the people from the Huangfu Clan regained their calm and refocused their attention. How could the people from the Huangfu Clan swallow this anger? Because of this, the ancestor brought a group of experts from the clan, demanding an explanation.

Madam Zi Yan’s visage became cold as she stated: “So if we say no, they will massacre our capital.”

Ancient Pine had cold sweat running down his face as he said: “Most likely. It seems that the Huangfu Clan won’t give up unless

we give them an explanation. If they actually attack, I'm afraid the Eagle Demon Monarch's group won't be able to withstand it."

Madam Zi Yan scowled while showing a cold glare. She knew very clearly that there were many great powers in the Alchemy Realm who had been eyeing their country. However, all of them had been living together peacefully. Nevertheless, with such a good excuse at the moment, how could the Huangfu Clan let this great opportunity go?

In addition to all of this, Huangfu Hao desired a marriage alliance with her, so their clan could use this as leverage as well after this event. It was killing two birds with one stone!

"Your Majesty, what should we do?" Ancient Pine hastily asked.

With a serious gaze, Madam Zi Yan austerely declared: "If the Huangfu Clan wants to play hard, then we shall entertain them. Our Giant Bamboo Country is not so easily bullied."

"I'm only worried that behind the Huangfu Clan is the Alchemy Kingdom. They had been in-laws for several generations." Ancient Pine couldn't help but worry.

Madam Zi Yan coldly replied: "[When the soldiers come, let the generals deal with them; when the flood arrives, let the earth halt it.](#)"

Worry about it when the time comes is the meaning behind this phrase.

“We absolutely will not falter in the face of the Huangfu Clan coming to our gate. Go beseech our ancestor to come into being. I will take full responsibility.” Although Madam Zi Yan was a woman, she was not soft at all. In fact, she was even more decisive compared to the rougher sex.

“It’s only a Huangfu Clan, there is no need to make any extraneous effort.” At this time, a lazy voice came about. Li Qiye slowly said: “There is no need to ask for your ancestor to come out, leave this matter to me. This matter started because of me, so let me finish it.”

Having heard this, Ancient Pine couldn’t help but stare at Li Qiye. Madam Zi Yan also became serious and said: “The Huangfu Ancestor is an unfathomable Virtuous Paragon who has been renowned since thirty thousand years ago.”

She only said this out of concern for Li Qiye. Even a Heavenly King like her was very wary against an existence of the ancestor level. Her strength alone was not enough to fight the Huangfu Ancestor; this was why she wanted to ask a Giant Bamboo Ancestor to come out of his seclusion.

Although the madam thought very highly of Li Qiye, this didn’t mean that the current Li Qiye could confront a character of the ancestor level.

In fact, ever since he got here, he had never personally taken action so she didn’t know of his exact cultivation. However, in her

opinion, he was not stronger than the Heavenly King realm.

And if he wasn't stronger than a Heavenly King, then he was not qualified to contend against an ancestor. A Heavenly King was insufficient when the opponent is an ancestor.

"It's only a Virtuous Paragon, not an Immortal Emperor — no big deal." Li Qiye said in an indifferent manner: "If they want to come, then let them. We can just use this chance to wipe them off the earth. Don't let even one of them think about escaping."

These casual words silenced both Ancient Pine and the madam.

Only a Virtuous Paragon — this might be the most arrogant phrase they had ever heard! Even an ordinary power would have only one Virtuous Paragon. This was a terrifying existence, someone capable of plucking the stars and seizing the moon in the sky, someone who could reverse the heaven and earth! It could even be said that a Heavenly King was not worth mentioning before a Virtuous Paragon.

But now, in the mouth of Li Qiye, he was "only" a Virtuous Paragon. How carefree and easygoing was he to utter such words? It was as if an ancestor of a great power, to him, was essentially insignificant.

Ancient Pine hesitated for a moment before having to voice his mind: "But... but... This is a Virtuous Paragon! A Virtuous Paragon capable of killing tens of thousands with one hand!"

While he recognized Li Qiye's peerless alchemy skill and knew that he could definitely become the Alchemy Emperor in the future, Ancient Pine had no confidence regarding Li Qiye's cultivation.

And this was the truth. In the Stone Medicine World, many genius alchemists had very average talents for cultivation. Even an Alchemy Emperor, regarding cultivation, couldn't compare to a God-Monarch or Godking.

In addition, Li Qiye hadn't shown his cultivation to Ancient Pine. Li Qiye was extremely young, so despite Li Qiye's supreme dao of alchemy, Ancient Pine believed that he was but an insect before a Virtuous Paragon.

Li Qiye lazily smiled and said: "So what if it is a Virtuous Paragon? Even a Godking would only come to seek his death. Leave this trivial matter to me."

Ancient Pine was completely speechless at this time. These words were even more preposterous and audacious! Godkings were existences at the top of the nine heavens, individuals who were capable of sweeping through the world! But now, Li Qiye dared to make such a reckless statement. How could Ancient Pine reply to this?

If it was someone else, Ancient Pine would already have berated him for this ignorance. Although he didn't dare to yell at Li Qiye right now, he still felt that Li Qiye was a bit too unreasonable.

And so, he turned to the madam for an answer. She pondered for a moment then stared at Li Qiye before slowly speaking: “Do you really think we don’t need to invite an ancestor?”

“Since when have I told a lie?” Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh and say: “Don’t worry, with me here, Virtuous Paragons are merely clouds in the sky. If the Huangfu Clan is too dumb to scram, then even if they have the Alchemy Kingdom as their backing, I will still exterminate their clan to their very roots!” Having said that, his eyes narrowed.

The Giant Bamboo Country had a special position in his heart, so if the Huangfu Clan dared to touch this country, he didn’t mind massacring their whole clan!

Those who dared to offend the Giant Bamboo Country would be killed without mercy! This was one of his uncrossable bottom lines.

Madam Zi Yan slightly nodded and formally said: “Since you have such confidence... Very well then, we’ll leave this for you to deal with.”

Although she did feel that his words were somewhat arrogant, her intuition told her that Li Qiye was not the type to bluster. In fact, all of his actions seemed to be premeditated, so she had faith in him.

“Your Majesty...” Ancient Pine was startled by Madam Zi Yan’s decision. To say that the country was being encroached by an army

right in front of their gates was not an exaggeration. Right now, the Huangfu Ancestor was right outside, but their lord was leaving this catastrophe to Li Qiye and didn't even invite an ancestor, so how could he not be scared out of his skin?

Over the years, Madam Zi Yan had been a great ruler. All of her decisions had been admirable, but now, Ancient Pine, who was counting on her to resolve this dispute, didn't expect for her to throw this matter over to Li Qiye.

“Demon Monarch, summon all the other monarchs. This time, all the problems will be personally dealt with by Young Noble Li. All monarchs and disciples must follow his orders.” Madam Zi Yan slowly declared. Although she was not very loud, her voice carried a powerful resonance that left no room for questions.

Ancient Pine paused for a moment but didn't say anything in the end. He left and carried out the order. To him, although this decision was a bit crazy and could even be said to be insane, he still chose to follow Madam Zi Yan's command.

After Ancient Pine left, Li Qiye asked with a smile while looking at the madam: “It seems that you have a lot of confidence in me, ah?”

The madam couldn't help but meet his gaze and softly say: “Are you confident in this?” These words were very gentle and pleasant like soft water that could drown listeners in pleasure.

Li Qiye looked at the madam and smilingly stated: “I like women

like you.”

This response caught her off guard. Once she composed herself, she smiled back at him. Of course, she was not misunderstanding Li Qiye’s intent. She didn’t feel that he was teasing her or taking advantage of her.

At this moment, she believed that Li Qiye had no need to take advantage of her. With his attitude, it seemed as if even the goddess of all nine heavens would not be much to him. Even the fairies from myriad domains would wish for his loving embrace.

He was the most confident and indifferent person she had ever met.

The moment the monarchs received her order, they all stood there while looking silly. One monarch couldn’t help but say: “This, this is a bit too crazy.”

“Perhaps... this is Her Majesty giving Young Noble Li a chance to gain more experience.” Another monarch replied.

This speculation made the monarchs looked at each other. This made a bit of sense since if Li Qiye were to rule the country in the future, he must experience storms such as this to hone his skill.

Despite their skepticism, they eventually carried out her order and gathered around, awaiting Li Qiye’s command.

Seeing the eighteen monarchs sitting there while waiting for his orders, Li Qiye couldn't help but smile wryly. He shook his head to say: "It's only a little matter, there is no need to make such a big deal out of it."

Madam Zi Yan didn't reveal her stance on this situation while the monarchs remained silent. Their extremely dangerous predicament was not exaggerated at all since they were under siege by a Virtuous Paragon ancestor. But now, Li Qiye was saying that it was only a minor matter... This was the most indifferent person they had ever met!

Chapter 657: Critical Juncture

Right when they felt that Madam Zi Yan's decision was crazy, the Huangfu Ancestor outside of the capital spoke: "Royal Lord Zi Yan, our Huangfu Clan's descendant suffered a sneak attack and was gravely wounded inside your imperial palace. He was your guest, yet not only did you fail to protect him, you are also shielding his assailant. Does your country wish to oppose my Huangfu Clan? I hope that you will be able to give us an explanation. Otherwise, I will have to personally take a trip to your palace!"

At this time, the huge figure of the Huangfu Ancestor appeared. Although he had yet to step inside the capital, his mountainous shadow — along with the grand, majestic Virtuous Paragon's aura — was about to suppress the entire capital.

A Virtuous Paragon's voice was able to reverberate throughout the capital so that every single inhabitant would be able to hear his words.

The presence of a Virtuous Paragon was boundless. The moment his voice hovered around the capital, each of his words were like hammers nailing the hearts of everyone in the city. Countless people felt the pressure and couldn't help but stagger backward.

"A Huangfu Clan ancestor..." A Heavenly Sovereign from the previous generation exclaimed while aghast after seeing the mighty figure outside of the capital.

After knowing that the Huangfu Ancestor was personally sieging

the city, countless cultivators went pale from fear. There were even those who fled the capital overnight. It was understandable that they felt fear. After all, the one who appeared all of a sudden was a Virtuous Paragon. This was too much for weaker cultivators to bear.

The sudden siege by the Huangfu Clan left many citizens thinking that a disaster was approaching.

“What is going on? Don’t we have a good relationship with the Huangfu Clan? Why are they sieging us now?” Many cultivators trembled before the anger of the Huangfu Ancestor.

One cultivator who knew a thing or two said: “I heard that something happened to their First Young Noble, Huangfu Hao, several days ago at the feast in the palace. I don’t know what happened, but he was blown away from the capital. Although he is still alive, he was seriously wounded, so he can only stay in bed. He is currently unable to stand for even half a second.”

“It wasn’t just that Huangfu Hao was seriously wounded, Qing Yu from the Qing Clan was killed inside the Imperial Alchemy Garden without even leaving behind a corpse.” A cultivator who knew even more added.

“What exactly went wrong? The party resulted in one dead and one wounded? Moreover, they are both famous young geniuses.” After hearing this information, many cultivators became aghast and felt that a storm was approaching.

Sure enough, while the Huangfu Ancestor was causing trouble outside of the capital, the Qing Clan also sent their own words of intimidation.

“Your Majesty, my son attended the royal feast and died a terrible death inside the alchemy garden, yet Your Majesty didn’t even send notice. His killer is still free and is still considered a guest by the court! For millions of years, even if my Qing Clan had no notable contributions, the blood-spent effort was still there, but now, my son is dead! Your Majesty, however, continues to harbor the killer — this will sadden everyone’s hearts and deter all the talents in this world. Your Majesty must give our Qing Clan justice!” The Qing Clan revealed its stance.

At this time, not only did they express their attitude to the court, they did so in an open manner as if they were going to inform the entire country. This indeed happened after the Qing Clan’s message came out. The entire country was sent into turmoil with rumors spreading everywhere. A wave was stirred in just a moment.

Many messages were spread across all the counties. Moreover, most of them criticized the current Royal Lord of the country, Madam Zi Yan.

“Her Majesty is famous for her righteousness and love for talents. People praised her as a wise ruler, but now, it turns out that she is harboring a killer? Wouldn’t this negatively affect her reputation?” All of a sudden, in all the streets and corners, all the inns and tea shops, everywhere was full of people discussing this issue.

This news spread way too fast, and all kinds of rumors from all over the place eventually returned to the capital.

“I heard that Her Majesty and the killer has a special relationship. Because of her protection, the killer dared to act so wantonly without a care for laws!”

“Don’t people say that Her Majesty is impartial and wise, a true virtuous ruler? How could Her Majesty protect the killer?”

“Hah, because you don’t know. These praises only act as a pretense for outsiders to see. From this matter, one can immediately conclude that it was all political posturing.”

The rumors became increasingly harsh. There were hidden helpers with unknown agendas pushing for chaos in the nation.

One messenger sneered: “Madam Zi Yan’s love for talents, humility, and impartialness are only an act so that she could climb to the throne. Hah, in my opinion, she has already viewed the country as her own property, so right now, since her rule has been consolidated, she is beginning to reveal her true colors. At this moment, she basically sees human life as trash and will do whatever she wants with no consideration for Giant Bamboo’s prosperity.”

All sorts of messages were sent. Another one stated: “Think about it, only the wise and virtuous rule the country — this was the order created by our progenitor and has been upheld for

millions of years. Although the Qing Clan is not considered her direct subject, the clan is absolutely loyal to the country and has commendable contributions...

“Every time the country was in danger, the Qing Clan would rush to the front to protect it. Think about it, a family of heroes like this had to suffer the injustice of the death of their descendant. This is blatantly wanting the clan to end, so how could people not cry in pain from this grievance?

“Since our Giant Bamboo Country has a tradition of wise and virtuous rulers, if our Royal Lord is not wise and uses her power for personal gains and also treats lives like trash, then the throne should change hands to a new wise ruler.”

At this time, the rumors were no longer simple, and their intentions were clear.

It could be said that overnight, not only was it just the street of the capital, all the provinces of the country were full of these rumors. It was clear that the storm was quickly approaching and will bring great turbulence in tow.

At this time, the informed cultivators realized that this matter was not so simple. It was the Huangfu Clan who first laid siege, then the Qing Clan cried out for justice. Now, rumors were circulating everywhere, stirring the hearts of people and causing them to become restless and uncertain.

The smart cultivators realized that if this situation was dealt with

inadequately, then the entire country would fall into turmoil. Even a long lasting war was not out of the question.

Sure enough, on the second day after the Qing Clan's cry for justice, the Qing Clan's leader brought many people to the capital. Before entering, he cried out: "My son had died a terrible death. Your Majesty, please hand over the culprit and punish anyone who was involved in this matter. Give our Qing Clan justice!"

"The Qing Clan does need an answer." When the Qing Clan's people made it to the capital, a few lineages in the country also voiced their opinions. Some even sent their disciples to the capital to declare: "The Qing Clan deserves fair treatment."

"Boom!" The moment the Qing Clan's people made it to the capital, a cauldron's flame pierced all the way to the sky, illuminating an entire zone as if a Fire God was emerging.

"What just happened?" Even the distant border regions of the Giant Bamboo Country could sense this huge commotion, especially when this endless flame shot through the sky like a violet aura from the east heading towards the capital. Such momentum caused all the cultivators inside the capital to feel its presence.

"I heard that the Qing Clan's Pill King is about to come into being. Since the Qing descendant died a horrific death and the Qing Clan suffered unfair treatment, the Pill King was enraged and didn't mind breaking his Blood Era Stone to come into being." In a short period of time, this frightening news reached the capital as if this scenario had been prepared beforehand.

“The Pill King is about to appear? Another Virtuous Paragon is about to come to the capital?” After hearing this ancient title, a few cultivators from the previous generations were startled.

In the legends, the Pill King was a Qing Ancestor, a brilliant alchemist. Word of mouth stated that the Pill King’s cultivation stopped at the Heavenly King realm, but he was extremely well-versed at pill refinement, so after gathering countless ingredients, he was able to refine one batch after another. After eating fate pills like meals, he finally broke through the Heavenly King realm and became a Virtuous Paragon.

The arrival of the Huangfu Ancestor and the coming of the Pill King along with some clans showing their support all happened within one short day. This caused many great characters inside the country to shudder.

“Is there going to be a revolt?” One person murmured: “Is the throne of the Giant Bamboo Country about to change owners?!”

Giant Bamboo had been standing strong for millions of years. The royal succession established by the progenitor maintained a firm grasp on the country. No one had ever been able to shake its foundation.

But now, the capital was under siege, causing people to have crazy thoughts. The Qing Clan’s sudden attitude was not simply a demand for justice for the death of their descendant. To bluntly put it, it was a forceful call for abdication.

“I wonder if Madam Zi Yan is going to be able to handle it?” At this time, a lot of gazes fell upon the imperial palace. Although the Qing Clan had an aggressive momentum at this moment, the madam in the country still had a great reputation. Moreover, she was loved and supported by her subjects.

However, it was precisely due to their love for her that many of them were left very worried at this moment: “Even the Pill King is coming out!”

After this news reached the palace, many monarchs were both angry and shocked. In just a few days, too many ups and downs occurred. It was clear that there was an underlying scheme, and it resulted in a lot of stress for the eighteen monarchs.

At this point, they were counting on Li Qiye to take some sort of action because the madam had left everything to him.

However, he did not do a single thing. It was as if he had not heard any news at all. Let it be known that anything that happened in the country had been reported to Li Qiye by the monarchs. Despite all of this, he was still relaxed; it was as if he paid no mind to this whole matter.

Such a situation made the monarchs very nervous. One even hoped for Madam Zi Yan to take over, but the madam only smiled and said: “We need to have confidence in Young Noble Li.”

Chapter 658: Forcing An Abdication

After hearing about the eventual appearance of the Pill King, even the Eagle Demon Monarch who was friends with the Qing Clan was enraged. Normally, he would say a nice word or two for them or try to win them some advantages, but in the end, he still came from the court and was one of its disciple as well as a loyal subject! Thus, during this critical juncture, he was on the side of the court.

“What is the Qing Clan trying to do? Are they intending to force the king to abdicate?!” One monarch angrily exclaimed: “I hope they didn’t forget that it is not up to their clan to do as it pleases with the country.”

The Eagle Demon Monarch was quite worried as well as he spoke: “If the Pill King comes to the capital, I’m afraid we will be in danger. We will have no choice other than to invite the ancestor to come out in the face of two Virtuous Paragons!”

At this time, a disciple rushed over and reported: “Young Noble, the Qing Clan wants to have an audience with Her Majesty!”

The monarchs couldn’t help but turn to look at Li Qiye who was leisurely sitting on the throne that originally belonged to Madam Zi Yan. However, at this moment, he was half-sitting there in a completely relaxed fashion as if nothing was happening.

As for the madam, she was sitting on the other side. With a calm demeanor, she didn’t say anything; at best, she would only reveal a

smile.

Eventually, Li Qiye came back to reality and lazily said: “Since they are already here, how could we not see them? Go tell the Qing Clan and the Huangfu Clan... In fact, tell this to all the people in the capital, all the lineages, that have something to say or are demanding an answer.”

Li Qiye didn't make a single move in the last two days; he was still nonchalant towards all the new developments. Now, he finally took action, allowing the monarchs to heave a sigh of relief.

At this moment, for the monarchs, it didn't matter whether Li Qiye's actions were right or wrong, it was still better than his attitude of indifference. At least he was doing something.

This disciple immediately acknowledged Li Qiye's command and quickly carried it out.

“Young Noble, we should have a discussion with the Qing Clan and the Huangfu Clan about this matter tomorrow. This is only a misunderstanding, so as long as Young Noble shows sincerity and relies on the reputation the Giant Bamboo Country that has already been established, erasing this animosity shouldn't be a problem.” The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch busily said.

He thought very highly of Li Qiye, so he didn't hope for Li Qiye to ascend to the throne in a state of war before consolidating his power.

The Eagle Demon Monarch also pondered for a moment before speaking to Li Qiye: “Young Noble, I volunteer to talk to the Qing Clan. We have some time and with my mediation, resolving this conflict shouldn’t be a problem.” The Eagle Demon Monarch also didn’t want to see the country fall into disarray, so he was willing to solve this side of the issue.

“Mediation and erasing this animosity with me showing sincerity?” Li Qiye couldn’t help but chuckle after hearing these two and slowly replied: “Who said I wanted to mediate? Who said I wanted to resolve this conflict?”

This answer took the monarchs by surprise. Ancient Pine had to interject: “Young Noble, before we lose all sense of pretense, it is not too late to reconcile so that we can spare the country from war.”

Li Qiye laughed and lazily said: “Spare from war? Demon Monarchs, there will be war wherever I stand. Why should I try to reconcile? Very well, if you want peace, then I will think about it.

“... Actually, my demand will be very simple. Tell the Huangfu Ancestor and that whatever Pill King to prostrate and beg for forgiveness. Then, I will think about not bringing war to their door.”

The moment these words came out, all the monarchs were stunned and took passing glances at each other in order to read the situation. If Madam Zi Yan handing this matter over to Li Qiye was crazy, then at this moment, Li Qiye’s decision was truly insane!

The Ancient Pine Demon Monarch hesitated for a bit and had to speak: “Young Noble... Ah... This will make it so that we will face the enemy from all sides. That... would be bad.”

Li Qiye lazily said: “Demon Monarchs, now that all of you are here, I will let you know my creed. First, I will not negotiate. At least, not with my enemies, unless they prostrate before me. Second, the words ‘admitting defeat’ are not in my vocabulary. Third, I will not let go of past grievances unless my enemies beg for forgiveness and accept their sentence. If their attitude is good, then I can think about it. Fourth, a very simple phrase — those who dare to halt my path shall be killed without mercy! Even Immortal Emperors are no exceptions!”

Li Qiye’s lazy remark didn’t carry an aggressive tone or oppressive momentum, but the contents were the most arrogant and overbearing words in the world! However, they came out of his mouth in such a nonchalant and confident manner as if all was within his grasp.

The eighteen monarchs were dumbfounded by this declaration. They looked at each other and felt that Li Qiye had turned mad. At the very least, he was the most insane person they had ever seen.

“Well, Young Noble, what will you do tomorrow then?” One monarch couldn’t help but ask.

Li Qiye didn’t even bat an eye as he slowly uttered: “What else is there to do? If they do not prostrate before me, then I will kill all of

them! The stone-paved path before the imperial palace has not been washed with blood in a very long time, so it is high time that some people learn that the imperial court is not something they can provoke!”

Speaking up to this point, Li Qiye paused for a moment. He had an indescribable air of gentleness as he softly continued: “I adore peace and also wish for this place to be a tranquil paradise, but when the time comes, I don’t mind washing this land with the blood of enemies; even the gods won’t be able to escape. Let the people of the Nine Worlds and myriad realms know that those who offend the Giant Bamboo Country, no matter their background or race, will be massacred by me!” His eyes turned fierce at this point.

The gentle expression was replaced by this fierce gaze. It wasn’t only the madam, the eighteen monarchs all quivered as an illusion appeared in their minds. At this moment, Li Qiye had become a fierce prehistoric beast. The moment he woke up would be when an ocean of blood forms and when corpses pile up into mountains. It was as if he was sharpening his fangs at the nine heavens and ten earths! Behind him was a scene of carnage where even the gods would wail! The people in the room had to shake off this creepy feeling. After finally calming down, they all took deep breaths. Inadvertently, they would feel a cold chill whenever they looked at Li Qiye.

However, they found Li Qiye lazily seated in a leisurely posture. At this moment, he was but an ordinary and carefree young man, so where was the aura of a prehistoric beast devouring the world from earlier? This disparity, this contrast was hard to accept for the monarchs.

“However, we are about to face two Virtuous Paragons...” The Eagle Demon Monarch paused for a bit before speaking after finally calming down: “Essentially, we alone cannot deal with two Virtuous Paragons. Just one of them is more than enough to slay all of us. If we don’t invite our ancestor, we simply can’t resist their might.”

“We?” At this time, Li Qiye glanced at the Eagle Demon Monarch and slightly shook his head to say: “Eagle Demon Monarch, you are mistaken, it is not we, but I. You all have no part in this, I alone shall deal with them.”

This development silenced all the monarchs. Even Ancient Pine was quite skeptical as he repeated: “Just Young Noble alone?”

How could he not be skeptical? The enemy camp had two Virtuous Paragons, so how could Li Qiye do anything by himself? Even if he was a Virtuous Paragon, it would still be impossible.

“Demon Monarch, what else must I say? If I say I want to do it alone, then that is that, there is no need to waste more breath.” Li Qiye slightly raised his brows and added: “Also, spread this news. Tomorrow when I see them, those who want to spectate can come. This is something that I’m encouraging so there is no need for an entrance fee. Of course, if people want to join the enemy, then I welcome that too. Killing one hundred with one hand is not as shocking as killing tens of thousands!”

At this point, the monarchs had no words left for Li Qiye. Under such circumstances, others would be afraid of having too many enemies to handle, yet he was actually afraid of having too few

enemies. What could the eighteen monarchs say to a person who desired to have even more foes such as him?

They became a bit helpless and had to look at Madam Zi Yan. They hoped that she would come out and try to counsel him because Li Qiye's approach was too crazy. However, the madam didn't say anything and only sat there quietly with a smile on her face; it was obvious that she had faith in Li Qiye.

Seeing as how even the madam was supporting Li Qiye, the eighteen monarchs didn't have anything else to say. They had no choice but to do as he said.

Sure enough, the imperial court released a certain message overnight: "Tomorrow, the court will meet the Huangfu Clan, the Qing Clan, and any other lineage or sect that wants to support them." This news spread across the capital very quickly.

After this news came out, all types of reactions ensued.

"Her Majesty has finally decided to show up?" After hearing this news, there were those who were excited since they were confident in Madam Zi Yan. They trusted that, with her appearance, she would be able to solve this problem.

In fact, her popularity was very high in the country. Even though there were two Virtuous Paragons challenging them, there was still quite a lot of people who believed that the madam was capable of quelling this storm.

However, there were also those who were shaken by this stormy situation. A few gazed towards the imperial court and murmured: “Will the court survive this disaster?”

Chapter 659: Opening The Gates To Welcome The Enemy

“I’m afraid both the Qing Clan and Huangfu Clan will not easily halt their troops.” Any wise man was able to see this. The turmoil in the last two days and the rumors that spread everywhere allowed them to conclude that the Qing Clan didn’t just want justice, they wanted to force an abdication.

A cultivator from the previous generation murmured: “If this isn’t dealt with correctly, then the Giant Bamboo Country will change. I think the Qing Clan has had ambitions of ruling the court for a long time now.”

The sudden upheaval from the Qing Clan was not strange at all. The Qing Clan had been in the country for millions of years. Although they were not considered a great power and could only be considered a first-rate sect at best, they were deeply rooted in the country. Although the clan’s biggest weakness was their lack of invincible experts since it was hard for them to produce a Virtuous Paragon, this was also their strength. The Qing Clan was an alchemy clan that was famous for its medicines. For millions of years, many sects had asked for their medicines, and because of this, they had accumulated a great amount of wealth and had extensive connections.

It was no exaggeration to say that the Qing Clan had great relationships with many neighboring sects. Any sect would be happy to become friends with an alchemy clan.

The Qing Clan’s descendant died a terrible death in the imperial

court, so many of the sects outside either publicly or secretly showed their support for the Qing Clan. Some even sent their disciples to help their cause.

Therefore, this was ostensibly a cry for vengeance, but the truth was that this was a call for abdication. Any knowledgeable cultivator knew that the Qing Clan had coveted the throne of the country for a long time now. This had always been the case, but until now, the imperial court had always held a firm grasp of the country's territories. Moreover, there was very little fighting in the country, so on top of having wise rulers, the Qing Clan never had the chance despite its ambitions.

Thus, the current development was a god-sent opportunity for them. The death of Qing Yu along with the uprising caused by the Huangfu Clan, especially the arrival of its ancestor, allowed for circumstances where they could suppress the imperial court.

In such a situation, the Qing Clan and the Huangfu Clan were quite close. The Huangfu Clan wanted to cause a storm in the country while the Qing Clan wanted the royal power. Moreover, the Qing Clan's Pill King, who had always been in seclusion, finally decided to show himself. This move could only be described as quite menacing.

In fact, they were very optimistic about this situation. The imperial court was not very favored against the Huangfu Clan, so now with the uprising from their Qing Clan, this was definitely the best time to make a move.

If they were successful, then they would seize control of the

Giant Bamboo Country. Even if we take a step back and assume that they couldn't seize it instantly, the imperial court would be too busy dealing with the Huangfu Clan. At that time, the Qing Clan would still be able to gain the greatest benefit.

Moreover, the appearance of the Huangfu Clan made even more sects decide to voice their support for the Qing Clan. With their help, the Qing Clan's momentum became quite strong and seemingly flooded the country. If Madam Zi Yan made one wrong move, then the country would be fragmented.

"Will the court survive this disaster? Could it be that the court, which has ruled the country for millions of years, will finally come to an end?" Some of the older generation couldn't help but worry.

A great character looked into the night sky and slowly spoke: "Morning will soon come. At that time, we will quickly find out the outcome."

For many sects in the country and cultivators in the capital, this night was very long and boring. It was nearly torture for many of them. They all knew that tonight would be peaceful, but this was merely the calm before the storm. With a single misstep, the entire country would undergo a massive change tomorrow.

A ray of sunlight finally shone into the capital, waking up many people. At this time, many decided to withdraw, others wanted to watch, and some wanted to offer their support. As for which side they supported, only they themselves knew...

The sun slowly rose and the capital became rowdy with people coming and going. However, compared to the usual bustling scene, the atmosphere was much more somber. Both the pedestrians on the ground and cultivators flying in the sky wore a heavy expression.

At daylight, many cultivators attentively watched for any movement from the imperial court. As the sun was rising, cultivators could already be found standing outside the court in anticipation of the meeting between the two sides.

“Boom!” Finally, it was time. The grand aura of a Virtuous Paragon instantly shot into the sky as if a deity was arriving at this moment.

Under such an overbearing momentum, the entire capital seemed to shake. It was as if the person could crush the entire city with one stomp. The capital was just a tiny boat among the storm that was his aura and could be toppled at any time.

This was the Huangfu Ancestor. Although his hair was completely gray and his once-monstrous blood energy had withered like a sun setting, he still emitted a thunderous aura as if he was riding the storm. This was a power capable of controlling myriad realms.

The Huangfu Ancestor was an extremely powerful existence and was absolutely capable of causing cultivators to tremble. It was as if a slight gesture from him could burn the sky and split the sea. Meanwhile, behind him was a group of experts that included Heavenly Kings, Heavenly Sovereigns, and Ancient Saints. Their

blood energies soared to the sky as groups of divine rings pulsed around them. They came with their ancestor and held no one in their eyes as they traveled without any hesitation.

They didn't bother hiding their auras at all. On the contrary, they released them without any scruple and in an extremely arrogant manner without any respect for the capital.

“Does the Huangfu Clan want to go all out? An ancestor alone is one thing, but there are even three high elders and five elders as well, not to mention the other experts.” Many experts took deep breaths and shuddered after seeing the Huangfu Clan's lineup.

It was apparent to them that the Huangfu Clan didn't come for reconciliation. It was apparent that they had no intentions of sitting down for a talk. Even random passersby knew that they wanted to fight.

After the Huangfu people entered the city, the people from the Qing Clan were next. This group was led by the Qing Clan Master, and it was made up of quite a few people, including high elders. Besides the people from the Qing Clan, there were also a few accompanying experts from the other lineages that wanted to assist the Qing Clan.

Although this group was not as powerful as the Huangfu Clan, they made up for it with numbers. They entered the capital one after another with an aggressive momentum as well.

In an instant, the groups from the two clans were right outside of

the palace. They were together and created a very powerful aura, causing many spectators to shiver nervously.

At this time, a squeaking sound appeared as the two heavy gates in front of the palace eventually opened. Above the palace on top of a series of steps was a wooden armchair with a very ordinary looking youth sitting on it.

Behind this youth were eighteen Demon Monarchs standing in a line while Madam Zi Yan, the Royal Lord, was standing next to this ordinary youth.

“Who is that guy?” When the cultivators standing far away from the palace saw this scene, they were startled by this unimaginable image.

The eighteen monarchs could be described as lords of their own domains, individuals with great prestige. Moreover, they were all Heavenly Sovereigns! But now, they were lining up behind this young man.

It was even more astonishing for Madam Zi Yan. A Royal Lord and a Heavenly King like her could only stand beside this young man.

A single glance could tell that this young man was the person in charge at the moment and Madam Zi Yan was only standing there to keep him company.

This frightened and confused many cultivators as they tried to uncover the identity of the young man ahead. Just who was he to be able to command the eighteen monarchs and even Madam Zi Yan?

“He is an alchemist that recently appeared in the capital. I think his name is Li Qiye, the one who spent some scary amount at the Golem Square.” A cultivator knew who about Li Qiye told the person next to him.

At this point, many onlookers held their breaths while watching the confrontation between the two sides. It seemed that both sides had shown up with all their forces. All eighteen Demon Monarchs of the Giant Bamboo Country were here, so everyone knew that with one wrong turn, both sides would fight until the very end and bathe the palace in blood.

At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor stepped forward. At this level, each of his steps created an oppressive and terrifying aura. Anyone would have to shudder before this force.

The eighteen monarchs were intimidated and had to take a step back with shocked expressions plastered on their faces. Frankly, this was not shameful at all since the disparity between the two sides was too great. The monarchs were only sovereigns while the Huangfu Ancestor was a true Virtuous Paragon!

Even a Heavenly King like the madam was in awe and unable to withstand the aura of a paragon, leaving her with a shaken expression.

Only Li Qiye remained as calm as water in a well. He remained leisurely seated in his chair as if he was at home and nothing was happening. It could even be said that the Huangfu Ancestor before him was only a passerby — not enough to cause any trouble.

Chapter 660: Playing With The Enemies

The Huangfu Ancestor was a person who knew his stuff. His eyes narrowed after seeing how Li Qiye was unperturbed by his aura. In his opinion, for a young man like this to not be intimidated by his aura, he had to either be a Virtuous Paragon or have an unshakable dao heart.

At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor asked with an austere voice: “Did your ancestor come into being or not?” Although it was not too sonorous, it was thunderous like a drum next to everyone’s ears, creating quite a deterrence and caused them to shiver.

The ancestor hadn’t taken action yet, but his aura alone was enough to scare the people present. This was the frightening part about a Virtuous Paragon; those who were present could sense the gap between them and a paragon.

“There is no need to alarm our ancestor about this matter.” At this time, Madam Zi Yan answered slowly.

“Good... The descendants of the Giant Bamboo Country are really confident.” The Huangfu Ancestor coldly said: “Very well, if that is the case, then are you in charge here?”

“No, Young Noble Li is in charge and can represent our entire country.” Madam Zi Yan calmly replied with a solemn expression.

This answer left many people startled as they stared at Li Qiye. They wanted to guess just what kind of background he had to be

able to represent the entire country. This was quite unbelievable to them.

However, no one would question it since Madam Zi Yan was the one who said it. They just couldn't guess what Li Qiye did that earned him the trust of the country like this.

“Are you the one who sneak-attacked Hao'er?” At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor glared at Li Qiye as his eyes spewed out terrifying glints as sharp as swords; they were capable of easily piercing through Li Qiye.

However, Li Qiye was too lazy to look at him and smilingly said: “You can put it that way. Alas, he is quite lucky to still be alive. This is me pulling my punches.”

The ancestor's glare became cold as he emitted a frightening murderous aura. When waves of this murderous aura shot to the sky, all the spectators felt a chill down their spines. It was as if they had fallen into an icy basement. Many of them couldn't withstand it and had to stagger backward.

Li Qiye didn't care about the sudden expulsion of the ancestor's murderous aura. Instead, he gently waved his sleeve while uttering: “I know you want to kill me, but there is no need to rush. Today, I am here to speak about this matter. I am representing the Giant Bamboo Country. It is not just the Huangfu Clan that has problems with me, and I am willing to hear the complaints. Right now, I have heard about the Huangfu Clan's grievances, so the Qing Clan is next.”

Li Qiye's attitude caused many to be dumbfounded. Even the eighteen monarchs were shocked. Very few people here could imagine that a no-name junior would have the courage to talk to a Virtuous Paragon like this.

The Huangfu Ancestor became serious, but he was not angry. After gazing at Li Qiye for a while, he slowly replied: "Fine, I will let you live a bit longer. A monk might be able to run, but the temple can't escape!"

He himself wanted to see what this junior could do to justify such confidence. In fact, he was not in a rush at all since even if Li Qiye could escape, the Giant Bamboo Country couldn't.

Li Qiye smiled and eventually took a look at the Qing Clan to the side and asked: "I heard that your Qing Clan has issues with me as well and cries for justice, so now, I am ready to listen to your complaints. State your grievances and perhaps I can carry out justice for you."

The crowd was rendered dumbfounded by these words, especially the spectating cultivators who were quite puzzled. At this moment, the country was facing a disaster and could meet its end at any moment, but Li Qiye was acting as if it was nothing, as if it was merely a trivial matter.

This caused many people to wonder what the madam and the monarchs wanted to accomplish by picking such an untrustworthy person like this. This was simply picking the wrong person for the

task.

“Li! You already know full well, yet you still have the nerve to ask. You set my son up, you shameless wretch...” The Qing Clan Master bitterly said. His eyes were burning with furious flames as he glared at his son’s killer in front of him. He couldn’t wait to rush forward to kill this brat.

“Oh, so you are talking about this matter.” Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve again and interrupted the clan master. He nodded his head and said: “I already know about this, that means I have heard your grievances.”

With that, he ignored the clan master and turned his head towards the sects who were supporting the Qing Clan.

The Qing Clan Master was shaking with anger due to Li Qiye’s attitude and almost vomited blood. Both the Qing Clan and the Huangfu Clan were extremely outraged by the demeanor of this junior — Li Qiye. Only the Huangfu Ancestor remained indifferent; he wanted to see what ploy Li Qiye would carry out.

In fact, his only concern was the Giant Bamboo Ancestor, so he stood there, waiting to see if the ancestor would come into being or not.

“What are your grievances? Did your sect master die at the capital? Or perhaps your sons were killed at the imperial palace?” Li Qiye slowly asked the lineages who were supporting the Qing Clan.

At this moment, these sects couldn't help but look at each other. They were not afraid of a nobody like Li Qiye, but they were still quite apprehensive of the imperial court. In the end, an expert of one of the lineages came out and spoke: "You murdered the Qing Clan's Young Noble, you slew innocent and loyal subjects, you will be a disaster for the Giant Bamboo Country with your treacherous words that confuse people..."

"Got it." Li Qiye interrupted this expert and said: "Okay, so all of you want to be the harbingers of justice and defenders of the weak. When you see unfairness, you will unsheathe your blades to lend a hand."

This expert who was suddenly interrupted by Li Qiye was quivering from anger as well while glaring at him.

"I have now understood all of your complaints." At this time, Li Qiye still sat leisurely on his chair. He glanced at everyone in front and calmly declared: "Now, I represent the Giant Bamboo Country and will give a satisfactory answer to all those who have complained."

Here, Li Qiye paused for a bit and cleared his throat before continuing: "Regarding the matter of the Qing Clan's Young Noble, my answer is very simple — this was because of his lack of skill. As for Huangfu Hao who is bed-stricken, it is even clearer; it was his fault for provoking me, and I already showed mercy by not killing him. And as for all you heroes of justice, I will also give you an answer. If you scram right now, you will be able to hold onto your life!"

This type of answer from Li Qiye astounded everyone. The Huangfu Clan, the Qing Clan, and all the other sects who came to help glared at Li Qiye as their anger rose to new heights.

“You feel that this kind of answer will be able to solve everything?” At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor was still not angry. However, his aura was still oppressive, and a murderous glimmer could be found in his eyes. He was determined to kill Li Qiye at this time.

To existences like this Virtuous Paragon, even if they were angry at Li Qiye, there was no need to shout and scream to release their dissatisfaction, they would rather just directly kill him instead.

“Oh? So you have an idea?” Li Qiye looked at the ancestor whose murderous intent was provoked and said: “If you have one, then I am willing to listen. I have always been a humble person who accepts good advice and will not act so arbitrarily. I am happy to listen when others have complaints about me.”

Madam Zi Yan, who was standing beside Li Qiye, was out of words. If he was a humble person who listened to advice, then she would be a wise sage, a real ruler from the legends. She couldn't help but smile helplessly at Li Qiye's self-boasting.

“Your Giant Bamboo Country hurting my Hao'er is a great crime! This is challenging my clan's prestige, looking down on us with disdain, and also a declaration of war!” At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor coldly spoke: “Our clan gives you two choices. The first

will be a war until one of us falls.”

Li Qiye cheerfully chuckled after hearing this and asked: “Oh, then the other choice is not war?”

Seeing them talking like this, especially Li Qiye’s relaxed attitude, those who didn’t know the current circumstances would think that they were only friends chattering. Li Qiye’s attitude caused many people to be speechless; in fact, it nearly drove them insane. This nonchalant rhetoric as well as his whatever-goes attitude had no place in national matters! This was more like little children playing around.

The Huangfu Ancestor glared at Li Qiye. At this time, as a Virtuous Paragon, he was one hundred percent certain that the Giant Bamboo Ancestor absolutely didn’t come into being.

So without this ancestor, how could this brat ahead be so confident as if everything was under his control? This caused the Huangfu Ancestor to be quite vigilant.

In his view, Li Qiye had no place to compete with him. This brat before him, at best, would only be a Heavenly Sovereign who had yet to reach the Heavenly King realm.

There was no difference between this brat and an ant in his eyes, yet said ant still dared to act so contemptuously in such a relaxed manner. This made the ancestor feel very strange.

During this staredown, everyone else watched with bated breaths as they all looked on in silence. In the eyes of all, the Huangfu Ancestor was a beast watching his prey, and Li Qiye was only a little lamb. They believed that a lamb like Li Qiye would be swallowed in one gulp by the ancestor; Li Qiye wouldn't even be enough to be considered a good meal!

Chapter 661: Verbal Extortion

At this moment, the scene was so silent that one could even hear the drop of a needle. There was only a gentle breeze blowing by the imperial palace. In fact, even Madam Zi Yan next to Li Qiye and the eighteen monarchs behind him took deep breaths out of worry for him.

This was a Virtuous Paragon! Anyone who was glared at by one would be nervous and feel uneasy; they would no longer dare to act so bold.

And yet, Li Qiye was still unperturbed while seated in his chair. He was not even sitting straight, he was partially lying down, completely relaxed while waiting for the ancestor to say his piece.

The ancestor looked at Li Qiye for a while and only had one thought — if this brat ahead was not insane, then he was an idiot. However, since Li Qiye didn't look like an idiot, he had to be crazy then!

When everyone thought that the Huangfu Ancestor would angrily take action against Li Qiye, against their expectations, the ancestor slowly spoke: "It is fine if the Giant Bamboo Country do not want war, but your country sneak-attacked our Hao'er. Harming our descendant is a heinous crime! Our Hao'er's injury is grave, and outside of supreme medicines, nothing can cure him. This is an unbelievable loss that must be paid by your country!"

Li Qiye smiled and asked after hearing the ancestor: "Oh? What

kind of compensation do you want for your Huangfu Clan's loss?"

The eighteen monarchs heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Li Qiye. They all assumed that Li Qiye was prepared to negotiate with the Huangfu Clan instead of his previous declaration of murdering all of them. Now, with the new development, the monarchs felt that there were still room for reconciliation between the two sides.

Upon hearing this, many people felt that Li Qiye was acquiescing to the Huangfu Clan. Some of them shook their heads after recalling his initially arrogant attitude. It looks like it wouldn't last till the very end as he had to eventually accept his defeat.

Meanwhile, the Qing Clan Master only sneered while his head was full of expectations. He understood that with the appearance of the Huangfu Ancestor, the Giant Bamboo Country had no choice but to accept defeat. This was a resounding success for their clan as well.

In the courtyard, only Madam Zi Yan slightly shook her head since she knew very clearly that there was no way Li Qiye would accept defeat.

At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor coldly said: "It's simple. Your Giant Bamboo Country has to give up the eight western grand prefectures to my Huangfu Clan. That will be your compensation for our losses."

The moment this demand came out, the eighteen monarchs' expressions quickly soured. This initial demand already brought

up the ownership of land, and it was eight big prefectures at that. This was more than just extortion, it was basically wanting to take the entire country!

They shuddered inside at this time since they realized that their reignited hope was only grasping at straws. The Huangfu Clan had never considered resolving this peacefully or letting go of their previous animosity!

In the distance, the expressions of many cultivators, including even great characters, changed after hearing this. Some of them already knew that there wouldn't be a peaceful resolution, but they didn't think that the Huangfu Clan would ask for so much.

“Oh, so you want eight grand prefectures. Very well, I have heard your condition.” Li Qiye slightly nodded his head, then he turned towards the Qing Clan's group and asked: “What is your condition regarding your dead son?”

The crowd was stirred the moment Li Qiye spoke. Even the monarchs standing behind him were startled. Some of them were even angry since they thought that Li Qiye was accepting the Huangfu Ancestor's demand. In their minds, their Giant Bamboo Country would never yield to such a humiliating demand.

One Demon Monarch could no longer bear it and was going to step out, but Madam Zi Yan gently waved her sleeve, telling him to calm down.

“This, this is too much.” A cultivator standing in the distance

couldn't help but say: "Where did the Giant Bamboo Country find this weak and incompetent person? They even left him in charge...!"

A rowdy furor appeared among the crowd. Some were even enraged because the majority of the cultivators were still very loyal. Now, when Li Qiye seemed to be agreeing to the Huangfu Clan's condition, some of the cultivators here couldn't bear this shame.

In fact, even people from the Qing Clan and Huangfu Clan along with the supporting lineages were caught off guard. This negotiation was a bit too easy.

The Qing Clan Master stumbled a bit after being asked by Li Qiye. He felt a bit dazed because this came too easily. He calmed down and took a deep breath before speaking: "You tricked my son, so this crime is unforgivable. However, Her Majesty even gave you protection — this is not only abusing her power for personal gains in an arbitrary and prejudicial manner against the Giant Bamboo Country's reputation, it is also breaking the tradition of having wise rulers until now..."

"I understand." Before the Qing Clan Master could finish, Li Qiye waved his sleeve and interrupted him: "You are trying to say that you want the Royal Lord position of the country, and your Qing Clan will enter the imperial court to rule the country. As for me, I killed your son so I have to pay for it with my life. Am I correct?"

The clan master was a bit surprised when Li Qiye said everything he wanted to, causing him to nervously swallow his saliva.

However, he still bit his teeth and nodded solemnly to say: “Yes, exactly right.”

“Okay, your request is not surprising.” Li Qiye nodded and then looked at the experts from the lineages that were assisting the Qing Clan to say: “The Huangfu Clan and the Qing Clan have made their cases, what are your requests? If you have nothing, then I will resolve the issues of these two clans.”

Astonishment was the only reaction to Li Qiye’s reply. At first, it was only giving up territory to the Huangfu Clan, but now he even handed the imperial rule over to the Qing Clan. Everyone now felt that Li Qiye wasn’t the only one who was crazy, Madam Zi Yan’s group were as well since they actually let such a crazy person take charge!

“We want the territory along the South Stream!” An expert from one sect immediately shouted after calming down.

Since Li Qiye would even pass away the imperial rule, how could these people not try to latch on to this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity?

“Our Yao Clan wants the Langfang region.” Another expert immediately stated.

This scene sent many people into a daze. At this time, they felt that this location didn’t resemble a national negotiation of important affairs anymore, it was more like a food market. Actually, it couldn’t even be considered a market, it was more like

children playing around. This was especially clear when these sects shouted out their conditions and swept away the originally serious atmosphere. They have now become rowdy old ladies at the market, haggling the prices.

At this point, even the eighteen monarchs felt that this was a little funny. At this time, they finally caught on after seeing this scene.

“Good, good, very good.” Li Qiye waved his sleeve to stop the haggling lineages and finally nodded his head to say: “I have heard your conditions and demands.”

With that, all of the lineages couldn’t help but look at Li Qiye. In fact, all eyes were on him at this moment.

They wanted to see how Li Qiye would end this ridiculous scene of exorbitant demands. Many people even wondered if this crazy Li Qiye would actually meet these demands.

Once everyone was quiet, Li Qiye finally cleared his throat and slowly said: “I am a very receptive person. Everyone has desires, so I have listened.” At this point, he paused for a bit before continuing: “However, regarding your conditions and demands, I must give my apologies as I really cannot meet them after listening. Now that you’re all done, you need to hear my own words as well. There is only one thing I want to say — immediately disappear from my eyes. Scram as far away from me as possible!”

The moment these words came out, everyone’s countenance

suddenly turned extremely ugly, especially those on the opposing side who named their demands earlier.

At this point, many spectating cultivators felt particularly satisfied, especially after seeing the experts from the Qing Clan and the other sects look like they had just swallowed a fly. Some were laughing on the inside, but they didn't dare to laugh out loud since the Huangfu Ancestor's aura was still quite threatening.

“Do you think this is a joke?” At this time, the Huangfu Ancestor's aura was extremely scary, especially when his face turned cold; his aura could completely freeze the surrounding radius of ten thousand miles, causing everyone to feel as if the entire capital was inside a glacier.

There was no doubt that the Huangfu Ancestor, at this time, had become angry. The rage of a Virtuous Paragon could change even the temperament of the sky, causing the world to be without light. At this second, everyone became nervous and completely quiet beneath the ancestor's fury.

Li Qiye slightly lifted his brow and said: “To me, this is not much different from a joke.”

“Junior, when my Huangfu Clan is enraged, rivers of blood will flow. When I make a move, mountains and rivers shall crumble!” The Huangfu Ancestor coldly said: “If you can't be in charge, then have someone else from your country step up and meet my demands as it is still not too late. If you refuse... Hurting Hao'er and making a fool out of me are more than enough cause for me to destroy your country!”

“That’s right, the imperial court needs to show sincerity. If you don’t stay true to your words and treat national affairs as a joke, it will lead to the collapse of the country!” At this time, the Qing Clan Master also said in a serious manner: “The imperial court set up my son and even protected his killer. Now, it doesn’t want to stay true to its words — this discredits the entire country! It is time for a change of leadership; the Giant Bamboo Country should be led by a wise king!”

All the experts from the sects whom supported the Qing Clan rowdily exclaimed: “Yes, we must overthrow the incompetent tyrant of the imperial court or else our citizens will have to continue to suffer this horrible situation in anguish!”

Chapter 662: Massacring Clans With A Smile

“I will only say it once. I gave you a chance, but all of you did not cherish it!” Li Qiye slowly said: “So now, there can only be one end, and that is to wash these stairs with your blood! Kill them all!” With that, he simply clapped his hands together.

Li Qiye’s arrogance caused many of the spectating bystanders to become dumbfounded. These words were too outrageous. Before him was a Virtuous Paragon! Even the monarchs looked at each other. At this time, they didn’t know what to do; should they take action or keep watching?

The Huangfu Ancestor glared at Li Qiye and remained still. He was still waiting to see what the Giant Bamboo Country was hiding up its sleeves.

At this time, a Heavenly King from the Huangfu Clan sneered and stepped forward. His blood energy immediately soared to the sky like a dragon as he shouted: “Ignorant fool, kneel before me!”

The moment these words came out, a huge palm instantly headed for Li Qiye, wanting to grab him alive.

Li Qiye didn’t even bat an eye in the face of this Heavenly King’s palm, he still sat there motionlessly. At the same time, Madam Zi Yan and the eighteen monarchs became quite startled.

“Ba!” But before the gigantic palm could catch Li Qiye, a small sound appeared, and this Heavenly King was instantly turned into a bloody mist. He didn’t even have time to scream and he didn’t know how he had died.

“Don’t you dare!” In a flash, the Huangfu Ancestor loudly roared; this roar was capable of shattering mountains and rivers! At this time, he finally took action and immediately took out his true fate weapon. A divine saber soared across the sky, wanting to kill the thing that had just slain the Heavenly King.

“Boom!” But before the saber could slash downward, it was immediately shattered as countless little pieces flew everywhere. Next, a little “ping” came about as this ancestor’s body was nailed to the capital’s gate.

At this time, his eyes were still glaring at his opponent, yet they were filled with fear. He failed to see how the opponent made a move even at the second of his death.

Eventually, people clearly saw that the culprit that killed the Huangfu Ancestor was only a little bamboo branch with fresh leaves. This branch pierced the ancestor’s forehead and pinned him to the gate; the branch immediately destroyed his true fate. One branch, one fatal blow — this was too shocking.

This was a Virtuous Paragon! A great power’s ancestor! However, he died just like that without a chance to fight back. How could the spectators not be shocked?

At this moment, people were gasping with their mouths opened wide enough to fit an egg. They couldn't calm down and their minds were completely empty.

"I have given all of you a chance, but you chose not to take it. Everyone only has one life, so I can only apologize." While everyone was still shaken, Li Qiye slowly uttered these nonchalant and carefree words.

During the commotion, one person managed to calm down and shuddered with a blanched expression before stuttering: "My, my Qing Ancestor is the Pill King, an, an invincible Virtuous Paragon. If you, you dare..." At this moment, the Qing Clan Master's soul had already been frightened out of his body and kept on retreating backward.

"Qing Clan? From today on, there will be no Qing Clan in the Giant Bamboo Country. However, I'll give your clan a path for survival; to the elderly and young, all of you get the hell out of the Giant Bamboo Country." Li Qiye smiled dismissively and commanded: "Destroy the Qing Clan and its ancestral ground!"

"Buzz!" Up in the high clouds, one could see glimmers of green rays moving from the giant bamboo tree. At this time, a bamboo branch in the shape of an arrow appeared. With a quiet sound, the branch immediately pierced through the sky and traversed the great distance to the Qing Clan's grounds.

"Boom!" At this second, a boundless raging flame soared to the sky from the Qing Clan, lighting up the entire country.

“No...!” However, this raging flame was immediately extinguished in the blink of an eye. A miserable, shrill wail echoed across the world, followed by a loud banging noise. The earth shook once as if something had penetrated the earth in the far distance.

“Ba, ba, ba!” Amidst the confusion, the bamboo branch that crossed the domain earlier had returned. Countless bodies were dropped before the imperial palace.

“No, Ancestor!” The moment these bodies fell down, the Qing Clan Master let out a sad bellow: “Grandfather, Father, Uncle...”

“The Pill King...!” A cultivator yelled out in horror after seeing a very majestic old man among the corpses. This old man’s chest had been thoroughly pierced; he couldn’t be deader.

These bodies were all great characters from the Qing Clan, consisting of ancestors, high elders, and elders. All had been pierced by this bamboo branch. From their expressions, one could tell that they were all powerless to resist — outside of the Pill King — and lost their lives in just one attack!

At this time, the Qing Clan Master was drowned with grief. He lost all hope after seeing these bodies because all the experts of the Qing Clan were here. Each of them was able to uphold a region by themselves, but now they were all dead.

“Kill them all, leave none alive.” Li Qiye slowly said without

batting an eye.

“Buzz—” A green light fell down as a bamboo leaf slowly fluttered down. After seeing this leaf, all the experts from the sects and the Huangfu Clan lost their minds in fear. Someone screamed: “Shit, run!”

At this time, many turned to flee, but it was too late. “Pluff!” The bamboo leaf suddenly flashed and decapitated all the fleeing parties, including high elders from the Huangfu Clan and the Qing Clan Master... One by one, a bunch of heads started to roll for a fair distance on the ground.

The eyes on all of these heads were opened wide. They couldn't believe it since, in this very instant, they could see a spring of blood spurting from their own necks.

These spraying fountains of blood were spectacular beyond words; the streams were brilliantly red and painted the ground, slowly flowing together.

Eventually, thuds could be heard as numerous headless bodies fell down to the ground.

After seeing this scene, whether it was the spectators or the monarchs or Madam Zi Yan, all were standing there looking silly without being able to speak.

At this point, all the sects and clans who appeared here were

killed entirely. Not even one person managed to leave alive!

The verdant bamboo leaf gently flew into Li Qiye's palm. Li Qiye gently blew on it, causing a drop of blood on the leaf to fall to the ground, permeating the mud.

The leaf was still as green and delicate as before. Li Qiye gently stroked it as if it was a rare treasure.

However, in the eyes of others, this was not a green leaf but the most terrifying weapon in this world! A ferocious weapon of murder!

At this moment, all were petrified and unable to calm down, including the madam. There were no thoughts running in their minds, only emptiness could be found.

No one thought that things would happen like this or that it would end in such a manner.

Prior to this, many had different speculations about this disaster. Some assumed that the imperial court would split, some thought that it would have a peaceful resolution, and some thought that the ruler of the country would change...

However, across all of the speculations, no one had thought about the giant bamboo, not even the madam. Although she was very confident in Li Qiye, she didn't consider the giant bamboo. Not even in her wildest dreams did she think she would have the

chance to see the giant bamboo take action during her lifetime.

The country had been named after the giant bamboo since it was their Divine Guardian. This story had been passed down for millions of years. Ever since the founding of the country, the bamboo had been there and was considered an auspicious symbol and the protector of the country.

In fact, the country rarely had wars, it had always been peaceful, so no one had heard of the giant bamboo making a move or killing an enemy.

Thus, despite it being referred to as the Divine Guardian, the majority of people had only considered it to be part of the beautiful scenery, the symbolic attraction of the capital! Even the capital's inhabitants had forgotten about this tree above their heads that towered into the firmament. To them, the bamboo had been integrated into their lives. The country had viewed the existence of the bamboo as something familiar.

However, people finally saw the giant bamboo in action today. One branch killed a Virtuous Paragon while another destroyed the Qing Clan, not to mention that one leaf massacred many Heavenly Kings and Heavenly Sovereigns.

This illustrious battle record was too terrifying and frightening. Such an existence was indeed worthy of being called a deity, and not just in name!

In the yard, no one had expected to see the giant bamboo

attacking with its invincible presence, not even in their dreams. Who would have thought that this giant bamboo, that was only considered part of the landscape, was capable of slaughtering ancestors like pigs?!

The truth was that this should have come as no wonder. For millions of years, very few people dared to offend the Giant Bamboo Country. Existences like the Alchemy Kingdom, the Jianlong Clan, and the old ancestors of lineages who didn't know about the existence of the Dark Crow, all of them knew that the Giant Bamboo Country was a forbidden ground. Through the long and arduous years, no one had dared to attack the Giant Bamboo Country, lest they be destroyed by a dark hand!

In fact, for a behemoth like the Alchemy Kingdom, even when their Immortal Emperors were alive, the emperors had warned their disciples to never offend the Giant Bamboo Country. Existences like Immortal Emperors knew that although the country was only of average size, it had an extraordinary status in the Nine Worlds.

Chapter 663: Warning To The World

Just imagine, when the country was founded, even a group of Godkings came to celebrate as well as many different races of the Nine Worlds. The Immortal Emperor of that generation came as well. Even the founding of an imperial lineage would not enjoy such grand treatment!

Because of the Giant Bamboo Country's mysterious origin, it became a real forbidden ground to many grand characters, giving it generations of peace.

The truly invincible people were not willing to invade the country while ordinary characters couldn't cause any big trouble, so the giant bamboo rarely had to take action in the past millions of years. Thus, the world had forgotten that the giant bamboo was an actual Divine Guardian and instead only saw it as part of the beautiful landscape.

But today, the giant bamboo had taken action and immediately shocked the world by slaying Virtuous Paragons and massacring Heavenly Kings as if it was nothing!

As the blood flowed down the street, the heavy stench permeated throughout its corners without dissipating. The smell just lingered in everyone's noses, making them nauseous.

“Bleghh...” The moment they regained their thoughts, many people threw up nonstop, almost spitting out all the contents within their stomachs. Those who were more cowardly dropped to

the ground and defecated their own pants since they were scared out of their wits.

Others were frightened and paled. This was a Virtuous Paragon, but he died just like that. Moreover, an alchemy clan that had stood strong for generations was immediately destroyed; even with the protection of another paragon, it couldn't escape its fate.

The eighteen monarchs were completely aghast as well. This scene was too terrorizing.

“What a pity.” At this time, Li Qiye was still sitting in his armchair, feeling at home, as he said: “I love peace and didn't want the fires of war to reach this place, but unfortunately, a few people needed their blood to wash this land before understanding this simple logic.”

Having said that, Li Qiye gently blew on the bamboo leaf in his palm. It slowly floated up into the air and went back to the bamboo tree; it was still as green and pretty as before.

At this time, this leaf didn't resemble a murderous weapon that had killed many Heavenly Kings at all. It was no different from an ordinary leaf! Many couldn't help but lift their heads to look at the giant bamboo in the sky amidst the clouds. Amidst the gentle breeze, the bamboo leaves slightly fluttered, causing tiny rustling sounds that were quite difficult to hear.

Anyone who saw the giant bamboo now had a respectful and awe-struck demeanor. No one dared to harbour even the tiniest bit

of disdain since they all understood — right now — that this giant bamboo was not a simple tree, it was an invincible deity!

Before anyone knew it, some even got down on their knees and stared at the giant bamboo with great piety in their eyes.

Li Qiye's eyes slowly drifted towards the spectators as he slowly said: "The Giant Bamboo Country is a peaceful town for its inhabitants to settle and have a good life. Even I don't want to dye this land red with blood, but if anyone dares to offend the country, I don't mind painting this land red, painting the entire Stone Medicine World red, or even the entire Nine Worlds red! No one will be forgiven for breaking the tranquility of the Giant Bamboo Country! This is an ironclad rule that has never changed throughout the eras, no matter whether it is the past, the present, or the future!"

Li Qiye's remark was very light and calm, but it contained a bloody and ruthless warning! These words were not only meant to warn the people here, they also served as a deterrent to the slumbering giants beneath the Stone Medicine World!

The inviolability of the Giant Bamboo Country was an ironclad rule! After many generations had passed, even if Li Qiye didn't come back to take a look at the country, he would still be concerned about it.

At this time, no one dared to utter a sound. Before, they would think that Li Qiye was mentally ill, but now, they understood that this wasn't the case. In his eyes, the Qing Clan and the Huangfu Clan were not worth mentioning as a source of trouble!

Even Madam Zi Yan, who was next to him, was shaken. In fact, she was even more shaken than the others because she knew that Li Qiye could communicate or even command the giant bamboo tree!

How could she not be astonished by this matter? For millions of years, the only person who could communicate with the tree was their progenitor.

While many people were still stunned, Li Qiye clapped and said: “Very well, it is now over. Hang them by the wall so that everyone can see the fate of those who provoke our Giant Bamboo Country.” With that, he turned around and left.

In everyone’s view, Li Qiye seemed to have only done a trivial matter. This was killing a Virtuous Paragon and destroying a clan! But he didn’t even bat an eyelash. Even great characters had to shudder after seeing Li Qiye’s attitude because they understood one thing: this unknown kid before them was definitely a ruthless character, a killer who committed murder without batting an eyelash!

The eighteen monarchs quickly escorted Li Qiye back to the palace. Of course, they were astounded by him as well. Back when Li Qiye said he wanted to kill the Huangfu Ancestor, they all felt that Li Qiye was acting unreasonably. But now, everything happened just like he had said, so how could they not be shocked?

At this time, they found Li Qiye to be unfathomable and

enigmatic.

On the same day, the Giant Bamboo Country released a message: the Qing Clan had been destroyed with its ancestral ground completely demolished. All of its heritages had been turned into ashes. Although its young and old were still alive, with all the former destroyed, the Qing Clan was finished. From now on, it would be no more in the Giant Bamboo Country. The survivors left the country overnight and disappeared from the world from then on.

Prior to this, rumors were spreading everywhere throughout the country. Some lords became quite fickle to the point of dispatching troops, but in just one day, the entire country became silent again, and all the rumors instantly disappeared.

The once-ambitious lords received news from the capital and shuddered. They instantly sat down with pale expressions as cold sweat ran down their backs.

Meanwhile, the sects who took no action found themselves fortunate and were glad that they didn't blindly join in. Otherwise, their end could be easily envisioned.

At night time, a group of old men with gray hair all kneeled outside of the palace. Some of them were the heads of their sects while others were high elders and seniors...

These were all members of the sects who had voiced their support for the Qing Clan; all of them had great status. After these

sects received the news from the capital, they were paralyzed. Once they calmed down, these sect masters and senior members all ran to the capital to beg for forgiveness.

How could they dare to retaliate? The result of the Qing Clan was clear for all to see. An alchemy clan that stood strong for generations disappeared so easily. Even an existence like the Pill King was killed so sects like them were even more negligible.

Thus, the sects masters and senior members could only prostrate within the capital. As long as this could protect their sects and heritages, they were willing to do so even at the expense of their own life!

In one night, the chaotic unrest and rumors were instantly quelled. No sect or cultivator dared to do anything reckless.

This was the result Li Qiye wanted, to use a ruthless method to deter the ambitious individuals. He would kill the chickens to warn the monkeys and instantly stop those with mischievous thoughts.

As the night curtain fell, Madam Zi Yan asked Li Qiye: “Many sects masters and seniors are prostrating outside, ready to accept their punishment. How will you deal with them?”

At this moment, the eighteen monarchs were respectful before Li Qiye. They looked at him with eyes full of awe and fear.

“Let them kneel, then you can deal with them however you want.” Li Qiye answered nonchalantly: “I am not the Royal Lord, you are, thus, you are in charge of this matter.”

The madam couldn't help but softly sigh after looking at Li Qiye. In her heart, she knew that Li Qiye would not stay at the Giant Bamboo Country. Another way to put it would be that there was nothing here that could hold him back.

“Why is it that you don't want to stay here?” The madam gently asked Li Qiye. She was willing to immediately abdicate if Li Qiye wanted to stay.

Li Qiye met her gaze and, after a while, he looked away towards the distance and slowly said: “I am a mass murderer. The lands trodden by me are destined to be paved with dry bones. With me here, the stench of blood will eventually permeate the air. This is a peaceful land, so I won't involve it with scenes of carnage.”

The madam became quiet. Li Qiye had said similar words before. After a while, she lifted her head again since she couldn't help but ask: “Why did you pick the Giant Bamboo Country? What did you come here for?” She knew that Li Qiye's visit was not a simple coincidence. However, she didn't think that he was here for their treasure since there was nothing here that could tempt him.

Regarding this question, Li Qiye only smiled and didn't answer. He continued to quietly look at the horizon for a long time.

Of course, he couldn't tell her his secrets. After a while, he gently

sighed and lamented the ongoing vicissitudes of time. He eventually turned to look at her and asked: “Why must you participate in this conference?”

The madam didn’t hide it and revealed the reason: “There is one item that I really need from this alchemy conference. It is crucial for me to break through to the Virtuous Paragon realm.”

“You are a Violet Bamboo that took form with the dao, so it could be said that your roots are quite amazing and rare. Your talents are very high and, with such a great dao origin, you should have soared to the heavens easily. If I am not mistaken, before you took form, you suffered a lightning tribulation so your dao origin had been harmed. Although the wound is now gone, it is difficult for you to continue to take the next step, thus you need a heavenly treasure, correct?” Li Qiye slowly said while looking at her.

Chapter 664: Huangfu Clan's Countermeasure

His words caused the madam's face to greatly change. This could be said to be a secret of the country, a secret that very few people knew about. Even those who were privy to this wouldn't reveal this secret, but Li Qiye knew it so well.

The madam took a deep breath; she had slowly grown accustomed to Li Qiye's tendency of bringing about surprises. After thinking about it, she realized that ointments for recovery were part of the alchemy dao, and with his great skill, he should be able to see through her past injury — this should come as no surprise.

She wryly smiled and gently nodded to say: "Yes, this is true, I have suffered from a lightning tribulation before." At this point, she sighed again and continued: "The Giant Bamboo Country has not produced a Virtuous Paragon for several generations. Our ancestor is sealed inside Blood Era Stones, and his situation is not looking too optimistic as his blood energy has withered. We don't know how long he will be able to last underground. Thus, in this generation, I yearn to reach the Virtuous Paragon realm to contribute to the country."

For tens of millions of years, many ancestors and invincible existences were entombed in Blood Era Stones and buried underground. However, many of them still eventually died inside these stones.

Although the stones could cover someone for a long time, they were not a cure-all remedy. As time went by, even those within the

stones would slowly lose their vitality, and this loss would add up over the years. This was especially true for the ancestors whose lifespans had already depleted; it was even harder for them to persevere.

Because of this situation, the near-death ancestors didn't want to come into being because the next time they came out would signal their demise.

Li Qiye gave her a look before lightly saying: "Don't worry, I will get you the item you want since I'll be personally going to the Alchemy Kingdom's alchemy conference." He narrowed his eyes after finishing this sentence.

The madam gently nodded without commenting.

Inside the Huangfu Clan, its clan master had received the news from the Giant Bamboo Country, resulting in his sudden exclamation: "What?!"

He fell down on his chair after listening to this news. The elders that were present all glanced at each other with ugly expressions plastered on their faces; some were full of anger while others showed shock.

An elder couldn't help but angrily shout: "The Giant Bamboo Country is going too far. First they harmed Hao'er, and now they

even killed our ancestor. This shall be an irreconcilable blood feud!”

After a while, the clan master calmed down and took a deep breath before speaking in a grave manner to the elders: “This is a great humiliation to our clan. Do you elders have any opinions on this?”

The shocked and angered elders naturally found it hard to let this go, unless they were able to obtain their vengeance. Their clan had always thought highly of itself. It was an alchemy clan, and although they had never produced an Alchemy Emperor, their dao of alchemy could be said to have branched off from the Alchemy Kingdom. Their alchemy skill was not something clans like the previous Qing Clan could compare to.

What made them even more proud was that their clan had been in-laws with the Alchemy Kingdom for several generations, winning them a pivotal position in the Alchemy Realm and even the entire Stone Medicine World.

As the old saying goes, even if you don’t care for the monk, you still have to give Buddha some consideration. Thus, many great powers were very supportive of the Huangfu Clan within the Alchemy Realm. This only further fueled their pride.

From their perspective, no one in this realm would dare to provoke them, but now, not only did the Giant Bamboo Country harm their descendant, they actually killed their ancestor as well! How could they not be furious?

However, despite their enraged state, they didn't lose their rationality. The ancestor who went to the Giant Bamboo Country was their youngest ancestor, but still, he was now a dead Virtuous Paragon.

“Perhaps we should invite three ancestors to come out!” One high elder mused.

This raised some thoughts from the other elders because this would be their strongest force. These three ancestors were all they had left, and they had been sealed for a very long time now.

“The Giant Bamboo Country is unreasonable and vicious; they are promoting wanton killing of friends... Perhaps, we need to ask the Alchemy Kingdom to come and uphold justice.” Another elder suggested.

Such a proposal was not instantly accepted in the minds of the elders and the clan master. Although they were in-laws with the Alchemy Kingdom, their marriage partners had only been Prefecture Monarchs. It was still difficult for them to meet the main branch of the Alchemy Kingdom, or what outsiders referred to as the imperial family. They all knew that inviting the Alchemy Kingdom was not an easy task.

“Clan Master can try to find the World-Pillar Monarch. If the monarch is willing to help, then maybe we will be able to ask the Alchemy Kingdom to represent us.” A high elder said: “The Giant Bamboo Country might have a Guardian Deity, but so what? As

long as the Alchemy Kingdom is willing to show up, even a Godking would not mess with them.”

“This idea is not bad.” The clan master couldn’t help but ponder. The World-Pillar Monarch was the ruler of a prefecture within the Alchemy Kingdom. He had married a daughter from the Huangfu Clan, so he had a deep relationship with the clan.

In this generation, the string that connected the Huangfu Clan and the Alchemy Kingdom was this very World-Pillar Monarch. As one of the oldest lineages, the Alchemy Kingdom was a behemoth in this world. However, for a sect with three Immortal Emperors and four Alchemy Emperors, they had always maintained a low profile, especially the imperial family. Outsiders rarely saw its members, including the Huangfu Clan who had ties with the kingdom for generations. It was still prohibitively difficult to meet royal members, even for the Huangfu Clan.

“Clan Master, this plan is feasible.” Another high elder stated: “The World-Pillar Monarch is a young prodigy in the kingdom with great contributions; he is highly valued by the upper echelons. If the monarch is willing to speak for us on top of our relationship with Fairy Ming, then we still have hope of convincing the Alchemy Kingdom.”

“That’s right, Clan Master, Fairy Ming is somewhat related to us, so it will be even better if we can meet her.” Another high elder couldn’t help but add.

After being advised by the elders, it would be false to say that the clan master was not tempted. He definitely couldn’t swallow this

anger; such a feud was a great humiliation to them. As the ruler of the clan, if he couldn't wash away this shame, then he would be stricken with guilt.

However, he was still not convinced since he was different from the high elders who were usually in isolated seclusion. He was responsible for communicating with the great powers, especially the Alchemy Kingdom.

He was very clear about their relationship with the Alchemy Kingdom. Although the Alchemy Kingdom's descendant, Fairy Ming, was related to the Huangfu Clan, in reality, the relationship was very distant and spanned across several generations.

In fact, he himself had only seen Fairy Ming once. This was back when she still had yet to become the main descendant of the Alchemy Kingdom. When she eventually obtained this position, using the Huangfu Clan's thin relationship to arrange a meeting was harder than reaching the heavens.

The truth was that he and the entire clan had always tried to use this relationship as a vantage point. If Fairy Ming herself accepted this relation, then their Huangfu Clan would be able to climb up high and gain a great backing.

The problem was that they had never been able to do so. He had tried to meet Ming Yexue several times before to no avail. The reason why Huangfu Hao spent a great sum in an attempt to buy that Heavenly Cauldron was so that he could use this item to build on that thin connection.

“Clan Master, even though it is very difficult to meet the imperial family, we do have such ties with Fairy Ming. We just need to prepare and have the World-Pillar Monarch pave the way for us; it is still possible.” Many elders strongly endorsed this plan.

The clan master took a deep breath and became determined. No matter what, they must communicate with the Alchemy Kingdom.

“Very well, I will personally take a trip to the Alchemy Kingdom to get revenge for our ancestor.” He said gravely.

Another high elder contemplated for a moment before speaking: “The Giant Bamboo Country has a Divine Guardian, so if we want to fight them in the future, shouldn’t we ask for Sacred Ancestor Gu’s permission?”

Sacred Ancestor Gu was one of the three fortunate ancestors of the Huangfu Clan that remained. He was the oldest and also the strongest one.

The Huangfu Clan Master nodded and said in a formal tone: “I will go visit Sacred Ancestor Gu and ask for his opinion.”

“There is no need to come see me, I already know what happened.” At this time, a deep and hoarse voice appeared inside the room. Although they couldn’t see the person, the voice itself was full of authority.

“Sacred Ancestor Gu!” After hearing this voice, everyone in the room instantly prostrated.

The old voice continued: “I have understood the current situation after listening. The clan master can go to the Alchemy Kingdom not to convince the Alchemy Kingdom to represent us, but to build on this relationship instead. If we are backed by its imperial family... Nothing could be better for our clan than this.”

“This disciple understands.” The prostrating Huangfu Clan Master complied.

“However, one thing is forbidden.” The old voice said: “All Huangfu disciples are forbidden to step inside the Giant Bamboo Country for revenge, not a single step. If anyone disobeys, expel them from the clan!”

The words from the ancestor left the elders present in shock. They didn’t know why their ancestor would say such a thing.

“But, Ancestor...” The clan master was dumbfounded by this. Their descendant almost died in the Giant Bamboo Country, and they also lost one ancestor, three high elders, five elders, and numerous experts. It was simply impossible to tell them to let go of this enmity.

“This is my decree, no one is exempt from this.” The old voice sounded; no one dared to oppose his prestige.

“Yes...” Although the clan master was unwilling, he still decided to follow Sacred Ancestor Gu’s command.

Chapter 665: Leisurely Cultivation

“I know all of you are feeling indignant.” The old voice spoke: “But there is no other way about it. The Giant Bamboo Country is not considered strong, so even if they are listed amongst the first-rate powers, it would still be at the bottom. However, in the minds of all the great existences, it is a forbidden zone in our Stone Medicine World.”

“Forbidden zone?” All the elders were stunned since this was their first time hearing this. The clan master couldn’t help but ask: “Why is that?”

“Don’t ask me for I do not know either. In short, it is a forbidden zone. If this wasn’t so, then why does that country occupy a huge amount of worldly energy from the entire Elegant Azure Grand Vein and no one has ever dared to object to this since the ancient times?” The voice of the sacred ancestor continued: “Even the Alchemy Kingdom would not easily step into the Giant Bamboo Country. Their Hundred-Grass Alchemy Emperor had once coveted the Immortal Nectar, but even he didn’t dare to try and seize it!”

After hearing this, all the elders became confused. Could it be that this little country had something that even the Alchemy Kingdom was wary of?

“Is it because of their Divine Guardian?” The clan master asked.

The ancestor’s voice answered: “I’m afraid no one knows. At

least, I don't. In short, don't think about attacking the Giant Bamboo Country. That peaceful land is a forbidden zone, breaking its tranquility will only invite a disaster."

The elders and clan master became silent. Since their Sacred Ancestor Gu had said so, they didn't bring it up again.

"But the blood of our Huangfu Clan will not be spilled in vain." The ancestor spoke again in a grave tone: "Clan Master said that this whole matter is because of a junior named Li Qiye? That's fine then, death will be repaid with one's life; use his blood to wash away this humiliation. Do not step inside the Giant Bamboo Country. Wait until this junior leaves, then take your time to deal with him! Let the people of this world know that those who oppose our Huangfu Clan will not have a good end!"

The clan master bowed and said: "This disciple understands."

"Bring Hao'er here, I will treat him." At this time, the voice spoke again.

The clan master became ecstatic. Their Sacred Ancestor Gu not only had a profound cultivation, he was also an amazing alchemist. With his help, their Hao'er would definitely be fine.

At this time, the Giant Bamboo Country was completely quiet. The Qing Clan had been destroyed, and those who supported them

accepted their sentence one by one. The imperial court was just as unshakable as before; perhaps it was even more stable after this event.

The giant bamboo tree inside the capital became even more awe-inspiring as well. At this moment, anyone who entered the capital and looked up into the clouds to see the giant bamboo would carry a sense of respect in their heart. There were even those who bowed and prayed for the tree to protect their homes and families.

After slaughtering the Huangfu Ancestor along with numerous experts, Li Qiye wasn't asked to take care of any matters of the Giant Bamboo Country. All the work had been handed over to Madam Zi Yan. She was still the ruler just like before, taking care of the big picture.

In fact, she and the eighteen monarchs truly wanted Li Qiye to stay and even take the position of Royal Lord, but Li Qiye had no intention of doing so. Because of this, they didn't dare to bring it up again.

Li Qiye remained in the palace and had never stepped outside, he only cultivated behind closed doors. He painstakingly trained and, with his effort, his cultivation advancement speed was quite ideal.

For cultivators, the Heavenly Sovereign realm was very important since this was the realm where one communicated with the grand dao to derive their own profundities. This was to build a great foundation for becoming a Heavenly King or even a Virtuous Paragon in the future. Only by truly communicating with the dao and deriving its mysteries would one be able to reach the sublime

culmination. From doing so, one would be able to go even further in the Virtuous Paragon realm and create their own grand dao that belonged to them alone.

Communicating with the dao and deriving its mysteries was a piece of cake for Li Qiye. No one in this world was more versed than him with regards to understanding the dao and deriving the mysteries to its ultimate state.

Of course, this was needless to say. Li Qiye had thirteen Fate Palaces, the one and only person to achieve this. The thirteenth palace loomed above the high heavens and encompassed myriad laws. With such an unparalleled advantage, these issues were trivial to him.

Despite that being the case, Li Qiye still calmly cultivated step by step and derived each merit law and grand dao to its ultimate evolution, then he went one step further.

It could be said that Li Qiye was polishing all of his merit laws and techniques that were already outstanding to begin with. Under such training, even the most common art in his arsenal became incomparably enigmatic. A single gesture was enough to incite harmonization with the grand dao and myriad laws.

Outside of dao cultivation and strengthening his foundation, Li Qiye used his spare time to refine his World Seal. At this moment, his true fate treasure had taken form, so it needed even more blood energy and grooming from the dao.

During this period where he had nothing else to do, Li Qiye would take out the stone left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi for a look. At other times, he would think about the other treasures. For example, the item taken out from inside the Alchemy Fowl.

Speaking of the Alchemy Fowl, it was very comfortable and free. It could even be said that it loved Li Qiye's alchemy field to death. This alchemy field housed the Ancestor Ginseng, the Reincarnation Heavenly Soulvine, the Immortal Injury Peony... All kinds of great Immortal Medicines.

To the chicken, these were the medicines that it loved the most. It easily considered itself as the guardian of the field and took care of prepping the soil, watering, fertilizing, and catching insects...

Of course, the fertilizer was its urine and stool! Although Li Qiye's alchemy field was indeed extraordinary, the Alchemy Fowl was born for the dao of alchemy. Its excrement was the best fertilizer, even for Immortal Medicines.

Because of this, the chicken was very welcomed in the alchemy field. Each of the Immortal Medicines really liked having it around.

Its hard effort eventually bore fruit. Since it was born for the dao of alchemy, it was the best medium for medicinal effects, so by staying in this field, it was nourished by the Immortal Medicines, causing its cultivation to become even stronger. Its body also underwent an innate change. At the same time, when its body was improving, it could do an even better job of benefiting the alchemy

field.

Li Qiye had too many treasures, so he didn't spend too much energy on cultivating these Immortal Medicines. The chicken watching the alchemy field in his stead saved him a lot of work, removing some stress from his agenda.

In the blink of an eye, Li Qiye had stayed at the Giant Bamboo Country for almost half a year, and the Alchemy Kingdom's conference was approaching.

One day, Madam Zi Yan came to see Li Qiye and said: "The conference is almost here. I plan on going to the conference after the birthday celebration of the All-pine Treefather."

"All-pine Treefather?" Li Qiye paused for a moment after hearing this. He then looked at the madam and said: "Is the All-pine Treefather you speak of the old man from the All-pine Grand Vein?"

"Yes, the Treefather from the All-pine Grand Vein." Madam Zi Yan hurriedly responded: "His 500,000th birthday is coming up soon. At the moment, all the great powers and even emperor's lineages from the grand realms will send people there to pay respects. Our Giant Bamboo Country was also invited, so I plan to personally go to express our good wishes."

Li Qiye couldn't help but recall a few things after the madam brought it up, so he murmured and chuckled to himself: "The old geezer from the All-pine Mountain eh..."

“Young Noble knows the All-pine Treefather?” The madam couldn’t help but ask after noticing Li Qiye’s expression.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t answer this question. Instead, he said: “500,000 years, truly difficult... This world is quite merciless after all.”

500,000 years definitely deserved a grand birthday milestone. Although there were many existences in this world that had survived since the ancient times, these existences were all entombed in Blood Era Stones underground. This type of cultivator couldn’t be considered to be alive. Even if one was sealed for a million years, this didn’t mean that they were one million years old. Their real age would be counted by the time they actually spent in this world.

500,000 years was absolutely a very old age. Although cultivators could live even longer, for the majority, living for 100,000 years was already extremely difficult, let alone 500,000 years.

In fact, even a Godking wouldn’t live to his 500,000 year birthday. It could even be stated that in the Nine Worlds, not even Immortal Emperors could live that long!

Madam Zi Yan nodded and said: “This is indeed the case. In the Stone Medicine World, outside of our Giant Bamboo Divine Guardian, I believe no one else is older than the All-pine Treefather. The All-pine Treefather and our Divine Guardian are known as the two great Demon Forefathers of the Stone Medicine

World.”

“That would be incorrect.” Li Qiye smiled and gently shook his head to say: “Our giant bamboo is not a Demon Forefather...”

The madam was taken aback for a bit and said: “Not a Demon Forefather? Our Divine Guardian has been called a deity, so it must have reached the dao. Besides, I’m afraid no one in the Stone Medicine World has lived longer than our Divine Guardian.”

“Do you what defines a demon?” Li Qiye explained with a smile: “A demon obtains intelligence from the dao, but the giant bamboo has yet to achieve this.”

These words frightened the madam. She had always thought that the giant bamboo tree had become a demon, especially after its actions this time around. The recent events strengthened her belief that it had reached the apex and become a Godking.

Now, Li Qiye’s response took her by complete surprise. She couldn’t help but ask in a daze: “Our Divine Guardian didn’t become a demon?”

For an existence like the giant bamboo, becoming a demon was an easy thing, but it didn’t become one. This was truly a cause of bewilderment.

“No. To be exact, it is still just a green bamboo tree. Of course, you can also call it an Immortal Bamboo or Divine Bamboo, but it

absolutely is not a demon.” Li Qiye responded.

Chapter 666: Mysterious Carriage

This prompted the madam's inquiry: "Why is it that our Divine Guardian chose not to become a demon?"

For plants, birds, and animals, as long as there was an opportunity, they would immediately turn into a demon and obtain intelligence — this was their ultimate pursuit.

"Why should it turn into a demon?" Li Qiye replied with a grin: "Wisdom is not necessarily a good thing. Whether you are human or demon, there is too much trouble and sadness, too much responsibility as one gains strength. Even Immortal Emperors have moments of weakness and fatigue." At this point, he couldn't help but gently sigh.

The madam noticed his expression and was jolted for a moment. Looking at his countenance that seemed to be worn out by the vicissitudes of time, she felt an unexplainable pain in her heart. She gently reached out and took his hand while gazing at him with her most tender and sincere pair of eyes to soothe him.

Finally, Li Qiye smiled and gently raised her alluring chin. She looked back at him quietly with her eyes as gentle as water.

He eventually smiled and withdrew his hand before letting out a faint smile: "What is so bad about being a bamboo tree? Shouldering the nine heavens while looking down on everything... Hundreds of thousands of years would simply be a snap of the fingers to it."

Madam Zi Yan was startled. She was initially a Violet Bamboo so after hearing this, she couldn't help but have an inexplicable feeling. Back when she was still a bamboo, she was cultivated by the country. After she gained the slightest bit of sentience, she yearned to become a demon.

Her congenital conditions were quite favorable due to the Giant Bamboo Country's cultivation. After she gained intelligence, she kept on cultivating hard, aspiring for the day where she could reach the dao. The high heavens didn't let her down, and eventually, after twenty or thirty years, she finally became a demon.

But now, after Li Qiye said those words, she couldn't help but recall the days when she was still a Violet Bamboo. Inadvertently, she became lost in thought.

After a while, her mind returned and she couldn't help but wryly smile. She shook her head and didn't want to think about this matter.

"After I leave, the Demon Monarchs will be under your command." Madam Zi Yan said: "For the All-pine Treefather's birthday milestone, the entire Stone Medicine World will go to celebrate so I'm afraid it will last for a while."

"No." Li Qiye interrupted her and gently shook his head to say: "You don't have to leave the national affairs to me, just leave it to the monarchs. I also intend to leave."

He had spent a long time waiting at the Giant Bamboo Country, and Shi Hao had finally settled in. If it wasn't for the alchemy conference, he would have left already.

“Young Noble wants to leave?” The madam was frightened after hearing his wish.

Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh and say: “You don't need to be so alarmed. I already promised to attend the alchemy conference, so I will go. I have a place I want to visit and I also have a few things to do. You can go to the birthday milestone; after I'm done with my business, I will take a trip to the All-pine Mountain as well.”

The madam let out a sigh of relief after hearing Li Qiye. She was still very unwilling regarding Li Qiye's departure, but she knew that she couldn't prevent him from leaving.

“In that case, after we meet each other, we can go straight to the Alchemy Kingdom. We should have plenty of time to go to the conference after the birthday celebration.” Madam Zi Yan told him of her decision.

“Not necessarily, maybe we will be very busy after entering the Alchemy Kingdom.” Having said that, Li Qiye revealed a smile with narrowed eyes.

Right now, the madam knew a bit about Li Qiye. She couldn't help but feel a bit jumpy after seeing Li Qiye narrowing his eyes.

“Young Noble, don’t tell me...” The madam was indeed feeling nervous. In short, she was very disturbed after seeing his expression and felt that something big would happen.

Li Qiye smiled after noticing her anxiety. With a glance, he said: “Don’t worry, I do have a sense of propriety.”

The madam paused for a moment before whispering: “Young Noble, although the Alchemy Kingdom’s imperial family rarely shows itself, their power is unimaginable...”

She had always felt that Li Qiye’s trip to the Alchemy Kingdom could herald a bloody mess, so she couldn’t help but worry for him. In the end, they would be facing the behemoth that is the Alchemy Kingdom.

“I know that.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “I’m going to the Alchemy Kingdom for the conference, not to kill people. Of course, if people don’t mess with me, then I won’t mess with them.”

Madam Zi Yan sighed softly. She could only pray that those other people would grow a pair of eyes. Otherwise, some would die miserable deaths.

In the end, Li Qiye was the first to leave the Giant Bamboo Country. Madam Zi Yan still had a lot to do before leaving for the birthday celebration, unlike Li Qiye who could leave as he pleased.

Li Qiye left the capital and after deciding on a direction, he immediately soared into the sky. However, as he was not in a hurry, he would frequently stop.

Sometimes, he decided to cross over rivers or stop at a solitary peak. Sometimes, he stopped in a small village to take a break... As he traveled towards his destination, he passed by a few places and couldn't help but recall the past.

In the beginning, there were no problems at all. However, after a few days, Li Qiye noticed that there was a carriage right behind him.

There was nothing special about this carriage. At a glance, it seemed to be very common, and the curtains were closed so no one could see who was inside. The driver was a very old woman. Her hair was gray and her face was covered with wrinkles. This old woman had average looks as well. However, from her tidy clothing, it was clear that her master was not a nobody.

She sat on the carriage as her whip gently met the back of the horse. Her head was hanging loose as if she was fairly drowsy.

This carriage had not been following Li Qiye the entire time in the last two days. Sometimes, it was not able to keep up, but after some time, it once again appeared behind Li Qiye.

If it was only one or two days, then perhaps they were going towards the same destination. However, after two days, it still continued to appear behind him.

Although Li Qiye had always been calm like the water in a well and didn't even bother glancing at the carriage behind him, one must keep in mind that despite his numerous stops, when he was moving, his speed was extremely frightening and even faster than many flying treasures.

It didn't matter if he moved fast or slow, the carriage always followed behind him. This was impossible for an ordinary carriage.

Of course, Li Qiye's courage stemmed from his skill, so even if the carriage was purposely following him, he was not the least bit afraid. He also didn't care about this horse-drawn carriage.

But after the sixth day, this carriage began to appear in front of Li Qiye. It was no longer following him but was speeding ahead.

Oddly enough, it seemed to know where Li Qiye wanted to go. Along the trip, Li Qiye was still taking breaks, and no matter where he chose to go, the carriage would appear before him time and time again.

Whether it was in front or behind him, Li Qiye continued to ignore it. The same could be said for the carriage's master. Despite their close proximity, the master didn't bother Li Qiye and maintained a distance between the two of them.

This situation continued for some time until Li Qiye entered Celestial Peak Mountain. The carriage then disappeared and never

showed up again.

As he entered this mountain range, a gust of cool air blew into his face. This was a desolate place with many rolling mountain ranges and tall trees that had old vines coiled around them. There were many wolf packs and eagles flying in the sky. After taking a look, no signs of humans could be found in this land.

Li Qiye emotionally said after entering this mountain range: “Celestial Peak...”

Although the Celestial Peak was not one of the eight Grand Veins of the Stone Medicine World, it was still quite large and spanned over 100,000 miles across a vast expanse of different sceneries.

Despite its immense size, there were very few sects here. Even if there were some sects, they would be outside of the mountain range. However, a very long time ago, there was an extremely huge lineage in this place. Moreover, it was established by humans.

Because of this, a legend once told that this was the gathering place of humans in the Stone Medicine World.

Li Qiye became a bit emotional after seeing the rolling hills and lush trees inside the Celestial Peak. Who would have known that this beautiful and majestic landscape ahead used to be an ancient battlefield? An epic war had taken place here as blood flowed like rivers and mountains were made of corpses.

It could even be said that many ominous things had happened here until an invincible Godking of the human race took over and established his lineage. After a long period of change, this place finally became magnificent, as one could see before them in present times.

Future generations were unaware that this once-invincible Godking was a brave general under the Dark Crow, a general that had once swept through this world.

They didn't know that a great war against the Ancient Ming took place here. In this war, the most powerful sector of the Ancient Ming during its era was wiped out in one fell swoop in the Stone Medicine World.

They didn't know that because of this victory, there was the Stone Medicine World that everyone came to know of today. Without this victory, the masters of the current Stone Medicine World wouldn't be golems or demons, but the Ancient Ming instead!

After this great war, many terrible things happened in this location. Afterward, Li Qiye commanded this Godking to protect this area and build a lineage. Eventually, after the Godking's efforts transforming this place for tens of thousands of years, this battlefield gradually calmed down and the Celestial Peak of today appeared.

However, the lineage of this Godking had fallen a long time ago. Eventually, it disappeared from this land, along with its past brilliance that evaporated into smoke.

Chapter 667: Yuan Caihe

Li Qiye silently walked across the mountain range while measuring the earth. This land was calm without any commotion; Li Qiye knew that this was the result of the Godking's countless efforts. He didn't fly while he was in the Celestial Peak, he only slowly trod towards his destination since he needed the measurement.

The Celestial Peak, at the moment, was quite hilly and sparsely populated; it was a garden for beasts and birds. At the same time, due to the dangerous and steep terrain full of unknowns, many spirit medicines flourished here. There was even a rumor that there was a King Medicine around, but until now, no one had been able to catch it. As Li Qiye walked alone on his path, he had not seen a single person. It might be difficult to find even a single cultivator in this place.

It wasn't until one day when Li Qiye went through a deep valley that he saw a woman picking herbs. Moreover, she was a human.

It was not easy to meet a member of the human race in the Stone Medicine World; it was even rarer than meeting a charming spirit, especially at an area like the Celestial Peak. Within the radius of 100,000 miles, almost no people could be found, so meeting a human here was even rarer than meeting a King Medicine.

This woman was nailing sharpened pieces of thorn into the ground all around the valley. She was trying to pick a particularly rare spirit medicine that was hiding underground, so she had begun to seal the valley. After she had done so, she began to pour

alchemy water into the valley. This special strand was specifically created by her. When poured onto mud, it would act like little serpents that drilled into the ground.

The woman was using it in order to chase the spirit medicine underground and bait it into a trap she had prepared well beforehand.

Li Qiye was standing above the mouth of the valley and quietly watched this woman's every move. The woman also knew that Li Qiye was here, but she only turned and smiled at him before completely focusing on chasing the medicine underground.

Li Qiye watched this scene with a smile and took another look at the woman. She wore a commoner's dress that was embroidered with pure lotus flowers, giving a very fresh and elegant appearance.

She was elegant and refined with beautiful features and a pair of bright eyes without any cloudiness. Her body exuded the aura of a lotus in a valley — lucid and delicate. She carried herself with a calm demeanor, giving off the gentle feeling of jade.

In the eyes of others, this woman would be a gem adored by all. She would give off a serene feeling to anyone who set their gaze upon her.

Li Qiye just stood there, watching while enjoying her every move. He had seen too many beauties in this world, whether they were fairies or arrogant noble daughters, but he appreciated this type of

warm and elegant lady the most.

Inside the valley, the spirit medicine underground finally appeared after being driven around by the woman. This was a spirit root with a smoky purple color. The moment it came out, it turned into a wisp of purple smoke that erupted from the ground and bloomed to take form. This was a Seven-petals One-flower spirit medicine.

However, the moment it got out from the ground, it fell into the trap that the woman had prepared well in advance. With a popping sound, it was immediately sealed; any attempt at escape would be in vain.

The woman couldn't help but reveal a smile after seeing the trapped spirit medicine. She quickly approached and wanted to put the flower into her treasure container.

“Slow down, slow down.” When she wanted to act, Li Qiye started to speak: “Watch out for the murderous aura under the third petal.”

After hearing Li Qiye, the woman paused and took a careful look at the third petal on the flower. She couldn't help but feel a chill after seeing the situation of this petal. She then took out a medicine bottle and moved it closer to this petal.

The moment it got close, the medicine bottle spewed out a blue mist that quickly surrounded this petal. With another popping sound, a poisonous insect as thin as a cicada wing fell into the

bottle.

The woman quickly sealed the bottle and heaved a sigh of relief. After determining that everything was fine, she finally put the spirit medicine flower into her container. After she confirmed that the flower had been secured, she finally relaxed.

“Thank you, Dao Brother, for the reminder.” The woman came out from the valley and approached Li Qiye, expressing her gratitude.

Li Qiye smiled in response and said: “It is nothing much. With your alchemy skill, it wouldn’t have made it hard for you, it would have just been a little troublesome.”

The woman couldn’t help but give off a smile that radiated a peaceful glow. She spoke: “I didn’t think that I would meet a kinsman at the Celestial Peak; this is quite a rare occasion. I am Yuan Caihe from the Serene Garden, may I have your name?”

Li Qiye smiled and calmly answered: “Li Qiye.”

Yuan Caihe was a bit surprised to find Li Qiye acting so calm. Li Qiye smiled and continued: “I know the Serene Garden, it’s a famous alchemy heritage in the Stone Medicine World that was started by Alchemy Emperor [Tian Weng](#).”

Tian Weng = Old Farmer

Yuan Caihe was a bit embarrassed, but she didn’t lose her

cheerful confidence as she said with a smile: “Excuse me.”

It turned out that Yuan Caihe was one of the four alchemy prodigies in this world, the descendant of the Serene Garden. As for the garden, it was a famous alchemy lineage in the Stone Medicine World that was established by Alchemy Emperor Tian Weng.

Although the Serene Garden stood aloof from worldly affairs, its dao of alchemy continued to prosper since it was as famous as the [Bailian](#) Clan. Moreover, its plant cultivation arts could be considered number one in the world with no rival.

Bailian = Hundred/Amazing/All Refinements. Refinement here refers to alchemy.

Not long after her debut, Yuan Caihe’s fame spread far and wide. Although she was a quiet and peaceful person who had no intention of competing with others, her plant cultivation had no peers in the contemporary era.

Despite not trying to win fame, she had helped several great powers and imperial lineages by planting supreme medicines — this feat added her to the list of the four alchemy prodigies.

Alchemists were extremely prominent in the Stone Medicine World, so as one of the four prodigies, everyone knew her name, especially cultivators. When anyone else heard her name, they would feel astonished or excited, but Li Qiye was still calm. This really surprised Yuan Caihe a bit. After he gave his answer, she now knew that he was aware of the Serene Garden, but she didn’t

know who he was.

Nevertheless, she was a brilliant woman with an open mind, so she didn't mind such a thing. She asked with a smile: "Is Dao Brother also an alchemist?"

Among all the women Li Qiye had met, her smile was not the most beautiful and enchanting, but it carried a tranquil force that soothed the hearts of others.

Li Qiye shook his head and smiled to say: "No, the dao of alchemy is only a hobby of mine."

"To understand the location where this purple flower ambushes its predator so well, you must really like your hobby." Yuan Caihe smilingly responded.

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "I do some research on rare occasions, but I can't compare to the number one plant cultivation arts of the Serene Garden."

Yuan Caihe laughed and gently shook her head to say: "Your praise is too much. Brother Li shouldn't mind that matter from earlier."

Li Qiye didn't say anything else, he only smiled. If someone who knew Li Qiye were here to witness this, they would be shocked to see such a scene. Li Qiye acting so humble was the same as the sun rising from the west. Those who knew him were well aware that Li

Qiye didn't know what the word "modest" meant.

Li Qiye's rare modesty was due to the Serene Garden truly having a brilliant take on plant cultivation and also because Li Qiye appreciated girls like Yuan Caihe. He was in a particularly good mood, so his speech became correspondingly gentler.

They began to walk together. Yuan Caihe didn't ask where Li Qiye was going, she only followed along while discussing how to grow different types of plants.

Yuan Caihe was a very dedicated person regarding the dao of alchemy and plant cultivation. She put all of her energy into growing different types of vegetation. It could even be said that she was the authority in this regard, and no one else in the Stone Medicine World could compare to her.

If it was someone else, even alchemists, they wouldn't be able to keep up with her on this subject because she really was the best. Her views on alchemy plants were insightful and detailed, but who was Li Qiye? If he claimed to be number two regarding the dao of alchemy, then no one else would dare to claim to be number one! Even the four alchemy prodigies were lacking compared to him.

Because of his great knowledge on this topic, Yuan Caihe was very excited, especially when Li Qiye revealed some of his thoughts on the subject that caused her eyes to light up.

As a very devoted woman, she got along very well with Li Qiye and regretted that they had not met sooner. She couldn't help but

tell Li Qiye everything she knew, even her most precious knowledge that shouldn't be revealed to outsiders.

However, for someone like Yuan Caihe, a friend who could keep up with her was hard to meet; it was lonely at the peak. Other alchemists couldn't maintain a long conversation with her on this topic, but now, after meeting this new friend, she told him all her insights and questions regarding the dao of alchemy.

Li Qiye also gave her some ideas on this matter. After countless years of accumulating plant cultivation knowledge, his ideas were priceless. He wouldn't easily pass it down to someone, but he still told Yuan Caihe.

Meanwhile, some of her long unsolved questions had been answered today, so she was both happy and frightened after hearing Li Qiye's thoughts.

Chapter 668: Heavenly Peak Divine School

“Brother Li’s achievement in plant cultivation can only be better than mine. You are the one who deserves to be one of the four alchemy prodigies.” Her elegant face was glowing red from excitement after saying so.

Li Qiye chuckled and gently shook his head: “The dao of alchemy is only a hobby to me. You are the one who had devoted all of your energy on this subject; only a pure person like you can truly be called an alchemist.”

This was Li Qiye’s honest belief. Yuan Caihe had a pure obsession for plant cultivation. In this matter, she was very similar to the Alchemy God in the past. She didn’t look at plants and spirit medicines just because of their preciousness, she also had a side that cared for the medicines as no one else did.

Along the way, they met a spirit medicine that had been dug up. Its fruits had been plucked by someone, and even the roots were exposed above the soil.

“Poor little thing.” Seeing this spirit plant that was on the verge of death, she quickly used her alchemy water to save it and replanted it in its original location.

This spirit plant’s energy quickly recovered. After seeing it flourishing again, Yuan Caihe heaved a sigh of relief and became very happy.

Li Qiye quietly watched her actions on the side and couldn't help but chuckle after seeing her look of relief.

At the beginning of their journey, the Celestial Peak was very quiet, but in recent days, people had begun to show up.

Thunderous sounds appeared in the sky everyday as great carriages soared across the horizon. Some experts also flew here, including some weaker ones. It was clear that they were in a rush.

Another boom resounded in the sky. A group of huge golems flew right over Li Qiye's head and disappeared in the depths of the mountain range.

"The Draco-Bulls want to cross the river, so many alchemists are here to catch some Immortal Sulfur." Yuan Caihe commented after seeing so many cultivators and alchemists flying in the sky.

After calming down, she looked at Li Qiye and asked: "Is Brother Li also here for the Immortal Sulfur from the Draco-Bulls?"

Along the way, she didn't ask where Li Qiye was going, and he didn't ask her either. Inadvertently, they had an inexplicable and tacit understanding.

"You can put it that way. We can go take a look at the river." Li Qiye gently nodded and said: "But I didn't come for the Immortal Sulfur, I'm more interested in the Draco-Bulls themselves."

“Then we share the same destination.” Yuan Caihe calmly smiled and said: “I also want to go to the Celestial Peak River. Recently, I have been refining a type of pill and am in need of an aged Immortal Sulfur that isn’t available on the market right now. This is the season for the Draco-Bulls to cross the river, so I came here to test my luck to see if I can find some aged Immortal Sulfur.”

Li Qiye nodded and said: “That shouldn’t be a problem. There will be a scary amount of Draco-Bulls going to the river, so there will definitely be an older bull among them.”

A Draco-Bull was a type of spirit beast that appeared in very few locations in the Stone Medicine World, and the Celestial Peak just happened to be one of them. Thus, whenever it was the season for Draco-Bulls to come out, many alchemists came to obtain some Immortal Sulfur.

Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe moved on. Their trip was supposed to be fairly smooth, however, when they wanted to cross a giant mountain, they found that the road was blocked.

A group of armored experts barricaded the path into the mountain, so when Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe got close, they were immediately blocked by these experts.

“Fellow Daoists, please take the long way around. Our Golden Leopard Prince is picking some herbs at this location. Please excuse us.” The experts who stopped Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe spoke in a serious manner.

Li Qiye glanced at the mountain and lightly asked: “Is there a need to seal off the path just to pick some herbs?”

The expression of one of the experts quickly turned cold as he spoke in a rude and unreasonable manner: “Our Golden Leopard Prince is picking medicines for the supreme celestial being. This is of the utmost importance and there is no room for errors. No one can handle the responsibility of messing this up!”

Li Qiye’s eyes narrowed as he slowly responded: “Is that so?” Until now, only Li Qiye played around without restraints. Others were certainly courting death by doing so before him.

To Li Qiye, this so-called Golden Leopard Prince and “supreme celestial being” were not worthy of consideration.

Compared to Li Qiye’s aggressiveness, Yuan Caihe didn’t want to compete with others, so she quickly tried to persuade him: “Brother Li, we can spend more time walking around, it isn’t so bad.”

Li Qiye looked at this expert once and was too lazy to say more words, so he left along with Yuan Caihe. If it wasn’t for her, Li Qiye would have crossed the mountain.

“Brother Li, don’t pay it any mind. The supreme celestial being they referred to was the world-famous Ye [Qingcheng](#). Anyone would give him some face in the Stone Medicine World.” After taking the long path around, Yuan Caihe consoled him.

Qingcheng = Kingdom toppling, so I’m sure this fella is very

pretty.

Li Qiye didn't really care for such trivial matters. He only took the long path around because of Yuan Caihe's urging. He smiled and sarcastically asked: "Oh really?"

"No one can stop Ye Qingcheng's momentum at the moment. Not to mention the younger generation, even the older people treat him with respect." Yuan Caihe noticed that Li Qiye was not too familiar with the Stone Medicine World's events, so she explained a few things to him along the way.

"Ye Qingcheng is considered the number one man in the Stone Medicine World with no peers among the younger generation. Countless young geniuses and even Heavenly Kings from the previous generation joined under his banner. It could be said that presently, he has many supporters as well as great prestige. No one can match his momentum right now." Yuan Caihe explained.

Ye Qingcheng was a compelling name in the Stone Medicine World. There were very few people here who didn't know who he was. People referred to him as the supreme celestial being, or the Stone Medicine World's number one man.

Many great powers and imperial lineages believed that Ye Qingcheng would become the Immortal Emperor of this generation. Even imperial descendants were very cordial to him; many of them even decided to join his camp.

Yuan Caihe explained Ye Qingcheng's situation to Li Qiye. Li

Qiye, on the other hand, only smiled at these matters and didn't care too much. In his mind, as long as Ye Qingcheng didn't oppose him, it would all be fine. However, if he or anyone else dared to do so, then whether they were geniuses or ordinary men, they would be killed without mercy!

After walking for quite a while, Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe finally reached some vast ruins that spanned for thousands of miles. This place was covered in weeds and gigantic trees.

Despite its current state, one could still see bricks and broken tiles on the ground everywhere. Among them were treasure jades and bricks from walls that had collapsed for who knew how many years. All of these treasure bricks had lost their divinity.

Judging from the scale of the ruins and the debris on the ground, one could tell that this used to be a gigantic citadel, one that could only be described as mighty and extravagant.

“The Celestial Peak Divine School...” Li Qiye's mind went absent as he stood on top of these ruins. Its past appearance flashed before his eyes as if it was only yesterday.

After so many years, even the most long-standing heritages would fall into decline and eventually be unable to escape the fate of destruction, only to become ruins from then on.

“Brother Li also knows about the Divine School?” Yuan Caihe was surprised to hear Li Qiye because along the way, from their conversation, she knew that Li Qiye was not too familiar with the

Stone Medicine World's situation. Therefore, she didn't expect him to know an existence like the Celestial Peak Divine School.

Keep in mind that this heritage had perished a very long time ago. In the contemporary era, very few cultivators knew about it.

"I have heard a thing or two about it." Li Qiye smiled while looking at the ruins ahead.

How could he not know about it? The Divine School was created by an invincible Godking under his banner. In the past, he personally chose the location for the school's establishment, but now, it was in ruins.

"The Divine School used to be the pride of our human race." Yuan Caihe couldn't help but passionately say: "Legend states that at its inception, its fame spread far and wide. During that era, humans from all over this world came to ask for favors from the Divine School. The human cultivators looked at it with pride."

"Yes." Li Qiye gently nodded. Although he was the one who selected the site, he didn't stay here for long. At that time, the flames of war incinerated the entire sky as all of the Nine Worlds were in the middle of a great war.

In the generations after the death of the Godking, Li Qiye, in his Dark Crow form, didn't return to this place. However, he had still heard of its decline. After so much time had passed, the once illustrious Celestial Peak Divine School had turned into ruins.

Yuan Caihe continued: “Tales told that the old Celestial Peak Divine School was not weaker than any imperial lineage in the Stone Medicine World as it dominated the lands for an era. What a shame that with the passage of time, the strongest lineage of our human race in the Stone Medicine World collapsed.”

“Even imperial lineages will fall one day, so it is not strange for the Divine School to collapse.” Li Qiye said.

He had seen these types of things too many times and had become numb to it. For tens of millions of years, countless unbeatable characters had answered his call. Countless unbeatable characters established their own lineages afterward, and eventually, all of these lineages fell before disappearing from everyone’s minds.

Such things happened in every era, so Li Qiye had grown accustomed to it.

“However, I heard that the Divine School’s decline was due to a different reason.” Yuan Caihe said.

“Different reason? What would that be?” Li Qiye was intrigued to hear this.

“Rumor has it that although the Divine School was very powerful, it seldomly made enemies in the Stone Medicine World. It could even be said to have very good relationships with many lineages. Moreover, since it was situated at the Celestial Peak, it rarely had conflicting interests with the other great powers.” Yuan

Caihe said.

“So you are saying that the collapse of the school was not due to it being destroyed by enemies?” Li Qiye said with a light smile.

Yuan Caihe replied: “Yes, there was a belief that was very widespread for some time during that era, but after the Divine School was completely destroyed, no one ever talked about this belief again.”

“Then something extraordinary must have happened at the Divine School, correct?” Li Qiye’s eyes became serious. After the Godking progenitor of the Divine School died, Li Qiye didn’t come back to take a look. He didn’t return when the school was in decline either.

Chapter 669: Legends

“Yes.” Yuan Caihe said: “Legend states that something happened at the Divine School. At that time, it was extremely prosperous with immense might. Some believed that the school, at that time, was no weaker than when it was back during its inception with its progenitor still present. Perhaps this was destined, an inevitable decline from being too magnificent. Many people initially thought that the school would be able to reach the next level, but who would have thought that in just one night, an unexpected event occurred at the school? Legend states that all existences near the Godking level died miserably overnight.”

After hearing this, Li Qiye’s expression quickly changed because he thought about a certain something, a matter that he didn’t want to happen the most.

“It was said that something was dug out from the school’s grounds.” Yuan Caihe didn’t see Li Qiye’s change of expression and continued to speak as she gazed at the ruins: “Because of the unearthing of this item, a disaster befell the Divine School, killing all of their most powerful existences.”

Li Qiye couldn’t help but touch his chin and murmur: “Unearthed...” At this time, he knew what the school had dug out.

“However, no one knew what the school had unearthed, people only heard that this thing carried with it misfortune as the calamity spread across the school in one night.” Yuan Caihe said: “That night, countless powerful characters from the school died, which is why the school started to decline. Eventually, it was

unable to rise up and collapsed completely.”

“What about the whereabouts of that thing?” Li Qiye asked with a serious expression. He hadn’t thought that such a thing could have happened because it was essentially impossible.

Of course, he knew that it existed underground and just how terrifying it was. There was a reason why the Ancient Ming chose to fortify this place with such a mighty force in the past.

This was also why he commanded his most powerful Godking to preside over this territory and transform it. At the same time, he warned the Godking to never dig out the item or else it would bring about a calamity to their Divine School.

The Godking also made a grand vow. Moreover, he forever sealed this secret and suppressed this ground. It could be said that the item underground never had the chance to see the light of day again.

After the transformation to turn this place into an auspicious ground, it became quite majestic. Especially after the death of the Godking, no one knew that an item was being suppressed underground at this location.

In fact, the Godking never told this secret to his descendants. This was the reason why Li Qiye could leave with peace of mind. He knew that there was no way the item could come out since no one else knew about it!

But now, it seemed that the Divine School failed their duty and personally unearthed the item. They didn't know that this action was akin to courting death and bringing them onto the path of no return.

After hearing Li Qiye's question, Yuan Caihe shook her head in response: "No one knows. By the time the outside world learned about this matter, the Divine School was virtually deserted already. Later on, others found out that after the unearthed calamity, the school's elite forces were annihilated and the survivors fled to elsewhere in the world. As for the location of the item... This remains a mystery."

Li Qiye sighed softly after hearing this. He didn't expect for this thing to eventually be excavated. If he knew that this would happen, he would have paid more attention before and perhaps would be able to find out its whereabouts now.

However, it came as a surprise. The Godking kept his promise that year and the land was sealed, so after the death of the Godking, that should have been the end of it.

Ultimately, all the calculations of man cannot overcome the whim of the heavens; the Divine School somehow dug it up and caused a disaster.

Li Qiye looked towards the distance with a serious gaze. He knew what had been underground. In fact, he had thought about taking it out to put an end to it once and for all.

However, back then was a period of endless war in the Nine Worlds, and he didn't have time to deal with this matter. Afterward, everything went as planned with the creation of the Divine School and the Godking's promise, so he no longer wanted to take it out.

"Perhaps it will come out again one day." Li Qiye murmured as he gazed towards the horizon. If there was a chance to find it again, he absolutely wouldn't let it go.

"It is possible." Of course, Yuan Caihe didn't know what Li Qiye was thinking about, so she misunderstood his intention and said: "I heard that item is extremely ominous. Although it had disappeared, people had searched for it during that era. Such a monstrous and evil item wouldn't just disappear, it will surely come out again one day. As for when, I'm afraid we'll never know."

"Let's go, we'll head for the Celestial Peak River." Li Qiye took one last look around and gently shook his head before burying his thoughts. He had to go to the river to find a certain something before contemplating this matter again.

This time, Li Qiye came to find a certain thing, a living creature, to be exact. However, Li Qiye was not too certain about whether this creature was still alive or not. After all, so much time had passed.

Nevertheless, he still had to find it because he had a certain plan for going to the Alchemy Kingdom; it was not just simply to participate in the alchemy conference.

After traveling through the extremely vast ruins, some pavilions and palaces could still be found standing. One could imagine just how majestic and extravagant this place used to be. Alas, even the most powerful lineage would collapse in due time.

One couldn't help but become emotional when gazing at this scene, including someone who was numb like Li Qiye. However, before they made it through the ruins, a rustling sound appeared and a figure emerged from the ground. This thing immediately stopped Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe while shouting: "This is my mountain and these are my trees. If you want to pass, you must pay the toll."

Li Qiye had yet to truly see the appearance of this thing that came out from the ground, but he was already speechless after hearing such bandit-like words. What generation was this to still have robbers hanging around?

The thing that blocked their path was a very old-looking demon. It was clear that he was from the demon race because his entire body had taken human-shape, with the exception of his left hand which retained its ant-like features.

People would be able to immediately guess his origin just by looking at his left hand. This had to be an ant demon.

"Ah..." This demon bandit had just finished speaking, but he choked on his words the instant when he saw Yuan Caihe, showing a very embarrassed expression.

“Umm...” The old demon scratched his head with his left claw and said: “So it is Fairy Yuan, I didn’t think someone as great as you would come here.”

“You know this fella?” Li Qiye was going to teach this blind bandit a lesson, but after hearing him, Li Qiye stopped.

“You are...” Although this old demon recognized Yuan Caihe, she didn’t seem to remember him.

The old demon hurriedly said: “Fairy Yuan doesn’t remember me? I am [Tie Yi](#), the one who went to the Serene Garden five years ago to ask for medicine.”

Tie Yi is Iron Ant.

“Oh, I remember now.” Yuan Caihe responded: “You are that old demon who came with the Sacred Curewater.”

Having said that, she couldn’t help but take another look at him and found something strange: “In my opinion, your wounds that year were impossible to cure, but you are now completely fine. What Immortal Medicine did you find?”

“Ah, this is all because of you.” The old demon quickly said: “You handed me a bunch of medicine that was able to buy some time for my injuries. Yeah, maybe I had good luck, after a period of hardship, I found more amazing medicines and actually managed to heal the old wounds.”

Yuan Caihe was not a meddlesome person, so she didn't pursue it any further after hearing this answer.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye, who was standing to the side, gauged this old demon and leisurely said: "For you to stay at such a desolate place to be a bandit, it seems that life must be really tough right now. It is more difficult to find a fat sheep here than to be hit by a pie from the sky."

The old demon, Tie Yi, blushed after hearing Li Qiye's sarcastic remark and gave a dry chuckle: "It is just a misunderstanding, a misunderstanding, really. Young Noble misunderstood me. I am only hiding here to scare people a bit. There is no other intention, it is not like I really want to rob them. This is just a joke, nothing more."

The more Tie Yi tried to explain himself, the more people would feel that he was truly a bandit.

Li Qiye only glanced at him and replied without pressing the issue: "Is that so?"

This old demon Tie Yi looked honest, but he was a bit sly as well. His red face didn't want to discuss this matter any further, so he quickly changed the topic. He spoke to Yuan Caihe: "Is Fairy Yuan here to pick some herbs? I am very familiar with this area of the Celestial Peak, so if you want, I can lead the way."

Although Yuan Caihe's background was illustrious and many

great powers were very respectful to her, she was easy to get along with and wasn't the type that put others at a distance. She gently shook her head and said: "The main reason I came this time is for the Draco-Bulls; I'm just picking some herbs along the way."

"Ah, so Fairy is here for the bulls." The old demon clapped his hands and excitedly said: "I almost forgot until you reminded me. It is now the season for the Draco-Bulls to go out to the river, the best time to gather Immortal Sulfur. I know of a path to the river, so let me lead the way for Fairy and this Young Noble."

Chapter 670: Old Demon Tie Yi

This old demon volunteered and immediately led the way for Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe with great enthusiasm.

With the old demon ahead, Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe walked side by side while looking at the old demon. Li Qiye revealed a mysterious smile then told Yuan Caihe: “You know this fella?”

Yuan Caihe slightly shook her head in response and replied: “I don’t really know him, but he came to the Serene Garden in the past for medicine and even brought the extremely precious Sacred Curewater in exchange for ointments. At that time, I examined and helped his injuries, but they were extremely fatal and I was powerless. I gave him some ointments and let him leave. Without some Immortal Medicines, I thought he wouldn’t survive for another half a year. Who would have thought that he could persevere for so long and is actually still alive to this day?” While recalling the event, she couldn’t help but look at the old demon in front of them once more; this was a cause for astonishment. Although she was not versed in refining ointments, the Serene Garden had a unique dao of alchemy, and it also had some very precious ointments.

Although Yuan Caihe’s healing techniques were far from comparable to her plant cultivation skill, in her eyes, the old demon’s wounds that year were not curable by anyone in the entire Stone Medicine World, unless he managed to find some Immortal Medicines.

She was a kind person and although she knew that he would not

last much longer, she still gave him some ointments. She guessed that without Immortal Medicines, he wouldn't make it past half a year, so who would have thought that the old demon managed to persist and even fully recover?

She found it very strange, but she was not a nosy person. This was the old demon's personal matter, so she didn't question him despite her curiosity.

"So it is like that." Li Qiye stroked his chin and smiled while looked at the old demon's back as he walked on.

"Brother Li thinks something is amiss?" Yuan Caihe couldn't help but ask. Of course, she also found it strange as well.

"Well, only he knows." Li Qiye smiled, but a little glimmer could be found in his narrowed eyes.

The Celestial Peak was a wild area with dangerous hills. It could be said that there were dangers everywhere in the form of ferocious beasts and vicious birds. Although these creatures had yet to become enlightened, they were powerful beyond imagination and capable of rending the earth with their claws and destroying the sky with their wings.

There were poisonous insect kings all over the place. There were creatures so vile that a mouthful of toxic fumes spat from them could kill everything in a thousand mile radius — terribly shocking.

Because of this, ordinary cultivators didn't dare to intrude on the Celestial Peak. Only the strong would dare to show up here.

Its dangers also meant that there were many great treasures here that were untouched by man. Thus, this vast and majestic land was full of spirit medicines and herbs.

Along the way, Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe, accompanied by Old Demon Tie Yi leading the way, found many spirit medicines and herbs. Of course, the good ones had their own awareness, so it was a bit difficult to pluck them.

In fact, herb picking was also part of the dao of alchemy. With greater skill, one would be able to pick even better medicines, maybe even Immortal Medicines.

Of course, this was no issue for Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe, they managed to pick many along the way.

Meanwhile, Old Demon Tie Yi also got some leftovers from Li Qiye and Yuan Caihe. When they were picking medicines, he also managed to get some scraps in the form of herbs.

This harvest left him beaming with a delighted expression. It seemed that this old demon was a vagabond, so just a small batch of spirit medicines was enough to excite him.

“Wow, a nearly 1,000,000 year old Young King Medicine.” The old demon started to salivate when he saw Li Qiye pick a root from

a ravine.

“Pretty good luck there.” Yuan Caihe also revealed an elegant smile and said: “A Young King Medicine nearing one million years of age is not easy to find, but Brother Li immediately caught one this easily. Your dao of alchemy is really amazing.”

“You noticed it just as fast as me.” Li Qiye said with a smile. Due to his knowledge of the alchemy dao, the moment he set foot on this land, he immediately knew the type of herbs that were growing here as well as their locations. In fact, he had already measured the land the moment he arrived at the Celestial Peak, so even King Medicines wouldn’t be able to escape his grasp easily.

Of course, catching a 3,000,000 year old King Medicine was not difficult for him either, so him catching this Young King Medicine was just an easy matter.

Yuan Caihe gently smiled and said: “Brother Li flatters me too much. Although I also noticed that the root was hiding around this area, I wouldn’t have been able to catch it as well as you. Whether it was the catching technique or sealing the area, I would be one step slower than Brother Li. Your moves are swift and flexible like flowing water and floating clouds and shows the great mastery ingrained in your mind. I have to say that regarding plucking medicines, you are a level higher than me.”

Li Qiye only smiled after receiving the praise. For tens of millions of years now, his hands had plucked countless spirit medicines, so of course he had no peers in this regard.

“Fairy Yuan is the divine physician and Young Noble Li is the king with regards to the dao of alchemy. The two of you are at the peak of alchemy without rival.” Meanwhile, Old Demon Tie Yi immediately flattered the two of them. He looked at the Young King Medicine in Li Qiye’s hand and couldn’t help but gulp.

Suddenly, right at this moment, a group of people descended from the sky with an imposing aura. This was a group of experts that wore precious robes, giving off a cold atmosphere filled with disdain. The leader of this group was a young man around the age of twenty with an imperial robe that showed off his nobility and contempt for others.

“The Golden Leopard Country’s cavalry and the Golden Leopard Prince...” The moment the old demon saw this group of people coming down from the sky, his expression greatly changed. He did a roll and immediately went underground, disappearing without a trace.

His sudden escape into the ground left Yuan Caihe speechless. It was extremely rare to see a cowardly person of this magnitude.

“So it is Fairy Yuan, please excuse me.” The person who led the group was the prince. He cupped his hands together and spoke to Yuan Caihe: “I have heard my followers’ report. They were blind and stopped your path, so I am here to apologize.” Having said that, he slightly bowed.

The Golden Leopard Country was a demonic great power with a

number of Demon Monarchs that mainly consisted of animals. The Golden Leopard Prince was their first prince, thus his status was quite high.

However, his status was far from being comparable to Yuan Caihe's. People who were in a similar position to the Golden Leopard Prince in the entire Stone Medicine World numbered in the thousands, but Yuan Caihe was one of the four alchemy prodigies, someone with great fame; very few among the younger generation could be considered her peer. At times, many great powers and imperial lineages would require the aid of a young genius such as her.

She was a very easygoing and amiable person. Without any arrogance, she nodded and said: "Golden Leopard Prince said too much. There will always be some complications as we tread the outside world, so Golden Leopard Prince doesn't have to worry about it."

The prince bowed again and said: "Thank you for your tolerance." After apologizing, the prince's gaze fell upon Li Qiye. To be more exact, it fell on the Young King Medicine in Li Qiye's hand.

To the prince, an unknown nobody with such an ordinary appearance like Li Qiye was not worthy of his glance. In his eyes, this nobody was not worth mentioning.

What attracted his gaze was the root Li Qiye was holding. In fact, a 1,000,000 year old Young King Medicine — to any cultivator — would be a precious treasure and was worth coveting.

At this time, the prince asked Yuan Caihe: “This is...?” If it wasn’t for the fact that he really wanted the root in Li Qiye’s hand, someone with a great status like him would be too lazy to ask about an unnamed junior.

“This is Brother Li, he’s also an alchemist.” Yuan Caihe only did a simple introduction without going into great detail.

“Alchemist Li is truly lucky to be able to pluck a Young King Medicine; this is a rare occasion.” The prince said. He felt that speaking to Li Qiye was already doing this nobody a great honor due to his great status. Because of this, he didn’t even refer to Li Qiye as “Dao Brother”, only “Alchemist”.

However, Li Qiye was too lazy to even interact with someone like the Golden Leopard Prince; he simply stood there leisurely in complete indifference.

The prince’s attention was not on Li Qiye but the Young King Medicine in his hand, so the prince clapped his hands together and spoke to Yuan Caihe: “To tell the truth, I came to the Celestial Peak this time in order to find a King Medicine in addition to Immortal Sulfur. I see that the Young King Medicine in this Alchemist Li’s hand is just right for me, so I wonder if Alchemist Li is willing to do a trade?”

At this time, Li Qiye shifted his eyes and glanced at the prince. He still didn’t say anything, but the prince continued on: “As long as Alchemist Li is willing, you can just name the price. Whether it is

refined jades or treasures, this prince will try my best to satisfy you.”

At this moment, Li Qiye slowly put away the Young King Medicine in his hand and shook his head to say: “My apologies, but this Young King Medicine is not for sale. I’m keeping it for my personal usage.”

In his eyes, a Young King Medicine was no different to a weed. However, he wouldn’t sell it to someone like this Golden Prince Leopard.

“Alchemist Li should reconsider, as long as you name the price, this prince will try to meet it.”

Li Qiye didn’t even bat an eye as he coldly refused: “Not for sale.”

The Golden Leopard Prince’s expression immediately sank because Li Qiye’s attitude annoyed him. How could he remain cool when Li Qiye, this nobody, was acting in such a haughty manner towards someone as great as him?

Chapter 671: Tie Yi's Secret

“This time, I was entrusted a task by Young Noble Ye to find materials for a refinement batch.” At this time, the Golden Leopard Prince’s voice deepened: “Young Noble Ye’s prestige runs far and wide, and he has the support of the entire Stone Medicine World. The material gathering process has been quite successful so far as all the sects in the world were willing to lend Young Noble Ye a hand. Even if Alchemist Li is not willing to sell it to me, how about you sell it for Young Noble Ye? In the future, this prince is willing to put in a good word for you to Young Noble Ye.”

The “Young Noble Ye” the prince was talking about was the supreme celestial being, Ye Qingcheng. This was an awe-inspiring name since he was not just famous, the rest of the world treated him with respect, either due to their desire to support him or fear. In short, very few people in the Stone Medicine World wouldn’t give the name Ye Qingcheng some face.

Even people from the previous generation would show him some consideration. Yes, in the Stone Medicine World, countless people were willing to support him, including young geniuses, older experts, and even sect masters and rulers; these great characters were willing to work under Ye Qingcheng’s banner as well.

It was clear that the Golden Leopard Prince was using the name of Ye Qingcheng with the intention of threatening Li Qiye. Even if Li Qiye didn’t give him face, he had to give Ye Qingcheng some. Not to mention, a prince like him asking a nobody such as Li Qiye to sell him the Young King Medicine was already quite considerate.

In fact, the prince was very confident that when he stated the great name of Ye Qingcheng, very few people wouldn't give him face, especially a junior like Li Qiye.

“Not for sale.” However, in Li Qiye's view, Ye Qingcheng's name was no different from a random dog on the street. Not to mention the prince using his name, even if Ye Qingcheng himself was here, Li Qiye still wouldn't give him any face.

His answer left the prince with an unsightly expression. He felt he was doing Li Qiye a favor by not simply snatching it from him. But now, after bringing up Ye Qingcheng's name, Li Qiye still didn't give any face, so the prince's eyes turned cold while flashing a murderous glint.

“Golden Leopard Prince, Brother Li also needs this Young King Medicine, so it is a bit inconvenient. I hope you can understand.” Yuan Caihe spoke at this time in order to help out Li Qiye.

After hearing Yuan Caihe, the prince withdrew the murderous glint in his gaze. He didn't care for a little character like Li Qiye, but Yuan Caihe was someone he didn't dare to offend. A person like Yuan Caihe would have countless great powers willing to work for her the moment she made the request.

“In that case, I won't ask anymore.” The prince clasped his hands together once more towards Yuan Caihe and said: “Fairy Yuan, I'll be going then.” With that, he left with the other experts.

Li Qiye gave a faint smile after the prince left and said: “You

didn't have to help me, earlier. I actually wanted to see if he would dare to rob me or not." He licked his lips after he finished speaking.

Yuan Caihe gave off a wry smile and shook her head to say: "There is no need to give him a hard time, Brother Li. Ye Qingcheng, his backer, is not easy to mess with. Many people in the world are quite apprehensive of him."

"I've never cared for the master when I beat the dog." Li Qiye smiled and said: "Even if that Ye Qingcheng guy comes and dares to provoke me, I'll kill him all the same."

If other people were to hear this, they would definitely laugh at Li Qiye for not understanding the immensity of the heaven and earth and how he was simply courting death. Who would dare to say such a thing in the Stone Medicine World? Not even the previous generation would dare to utter these words.

Yuan Caihe couldn't help but glance at Li Qiye again. In the end, she didn't say anything and only smiled, the same calm and natural one as always.

"Still not crawling out yet?" After the prince left, Li Qiye stamped the ground, causing the terrain to shake.

With a crashing sound, Old Demon Tie Yi crawled out from the ground and carefully looked around before nervously asking: "Did they leave yet?"

Yuan Caihe didn't know whether to laugh or cry at this scaredy cat Tie Yi and said: "Don't worry, the prince has left already. Plus, they only came to greet us, there were no other intentions."

The old demon got out from the mud and cheerfully smiled, saying: "The Young Nobles, especially those from the great powers, treat human lives like insects. If they don't like the way you look, then they'll kill you instantly as if it was no different from crushing an ant."

Li Qiye gave him a look and said: "Where is your courage as a bandit? Someone who dares to act as a robber is still afraid of a single prince?"

After being exposed again by Li Qiye, the old demon couldn't help but blush. He cleared his throat to say: "Young Noble, please don't tease me. Earlier, I was just kidding; I only wanted to scare a few people, I wasn't going to do it for real. I am a cultivator who adheres to moral codes, a man of culture, so how could I be a robber? I was only messing with you two."

"Really?" Li Qiye glanced at him and said: "If you are what you say, then why did you crawl underground the moment you caught sight of someone? That is something a suspicious person would do."

The blushing old demon coughed and quickly responded with a grin: "It is all a misunderstanding, Young Noble. I am only a nice little demon with nothing to be suspicious about, right? I only crawled underground because it is part of my instinct, yes, my instinct. I am an ant who reached the dao and loves to crawl

underground daily, it has truly become a habit.”

“Is that so?” Li Qiye smiled while looking at Tie Yi and said: “Then what type of ant are you? There are fire ants, earth ants, ghost ants... Which one are you?”

“Oh, just like my name, I am an iron ant who has reached the dao.” Old Demon Tie Yi quickly answered: “As an iron ant, I am a bit special and rare, so because of this, I was able to reach the dao.”

“Iron ant?” Li Qiye gave a carefree smile and said: “I have seen iron ants before. However, I know that they do not crawl underground. You say you were an iron ant before you reached the dao, but you don’t even know the habits of one?”

After hearing Li Qiye’s question, the old demon scratched his head and wryly smiled: “Haha, just like I said earlier, I am a relatively special iron ant, so it is not too strange to like crawling underground.”

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t comment on this answer.

Old Demon Tie Yi noticed Li Qiye’s skeptical expression and quickly explained: “Young Noble, don’t misunderstand! I was really an iron ant before I reached the dao. Although iron ants do not like crawling underground, Young Noble, you are a grand character while I am but a little character; you don’t know how hard it was for someone as insignificant as me to reach the dao.”

At this point, the old demon revealed a sentimental and tragic demeanor while saying: “Young Noble, as you can imagine, I am an ant, no, an iron ant without any backing — just a little nobody. In the eyes of all the big shots, I can be killed with a single stomp of their foot, so how could I have reached the dao so easily? Because of this, for my own survival, I had no choice but to crawl underground each day and hide in order to stay alive...”

The more he talked, the more miserable he appeared. After saying the last sentence, he even shed two drops of tears, resulting in a very sympathetic image.

“Brother Li, don’t make it hard for the old demon. After all, everyone has their own problems.” Yuan Caihe smiled elegantly and gently shook her head, saying: “Let us move on. We might miss out on a good chance to watch the Draco-Bulls going to the river if we are late.”

The group resumed their journey. However, Li Qiye purposely let Yuan Caihe lead the way this time and created some distance between them. At the same time, Old Demon Tie Yi slowed down as well after seeing Li Qiye’s glare.

When Yuan Caihe was in front of them, Li Qiye finally leisurely looked at the old demon and slowly spoke: “Not a bad actor at all, but we all know in our minds, don’t we? Caihe is a good girl, but I’m not so nice. I am the type who murders people without batting an eye.”

“I...” The old demon was going to say something, but Li Qiye interrupted him with a wave of his hand. Li Qiye gave him a look

and nonchalantly said: “I don’t care if you were an iron ant or a fire ant or whatever the hell else. I also don’t care if you came for me or for Caihe or whatever you are thinking. You just need to know that when I am in a good mood, I am quite easygoing, but when I am not, then I can be quite difficult.”

At this point, Li Qiye’s eyes narrowed as he gazed towards the old demon and slowly declared: “Remember well, do not carry any crooked ideas about me or Caihe. I will not ask for your origin or your goal any longer, but it is best that you do not have any thoughts about me or Caihe. If not, I trust that I can show you what the most horrifying death in this world is.”

“Hahaha, Young Noble is really funny.” The old demon awkwardly scratched his head and hurriedly replied: “I, I am only a little demon, so how could I dare to do anything against Young Noble or Fairy Yuan? Plus, Fairy Yuan saved my life before, all I want to do is repay the debt. How could I have any malicious thoughts against her?”

“Young Noble, you can rest assured.” At this point, the old demon patted his chest in a heroic manner and stated: “Since Fairy Yuan saved my life, if anyone dares to make things difficult for her, it would be the same as causing trouble for me!”

Li Qiye interrupted the old demon and dismissively said: “Good, stop bragging though. Mark my words, otherwise, no matter who you are, even if you are an invincible Godking, I will show you a fate worse than death.”

“Haha, for sure, for sure.” Promised the old demon as he patted

his chest.

Chapter 672: Water Outlet

After a while, Li Qiye caught up to Yuan Caihe and, of course, Old Demon Tie Yi volunteered to walk at the front to make way for them.

“What did you two talk about?” Glancing at the old demon ahead, Yuan Caihe smiled towards Li Qiye; this was a serene smile that was incredibly pretty.

Yuan Caihe never competed with others, so she was always quiet and amiable with a kind heart. However, this didn't mean that she was a fool. On the contrary, she was extremely intelligent, so it was not an easy task to hide things from her. It was just that she normally didn't want to make it difficult for others.

Li Qiye looked at the old demon and cheerfully replied: “Just some small talk.” He didn't say anything, but not much could elude his gaze.

Yuan Caihe smiled quietly and didn't pry any further. She was not a meddlesome or talkative person.

Li Qiye couldn't help but look at her. He gently brushed the hair on her shoulder and said: “You are really a beautiful girl.”

This type of action would be quite frivolous and offensive if done by others, but Li Qiye did it in such a natural and comfortable manner.

“In terms of beauty, we have to talk about the Alchemy Kingdom’s Fairy Ming.” Yuan Caihe replied with a smile.

Li Qiye only chuckled and didn’t say anything else.

The three of them eventually made it to the Celestial Peak River. The moment they arrived at the outlet of the river, they found that there were many cultivators ready and waiting.

The [Celestial Peak River\(1\)](#) was also known as the [Celestial Peak Great River\(2\)](#) as it crossed the entire Celestial Peak Mountain Range. Its surging stream crossed this land and spanned for millions of miles.

This part is a bit awkward to translate to English for etymological reasons. In Chinese, (1) 河 refers to the majority of rivers. (2) 江 is reserved for very few bigger rivers. There are more than 2000 main rivers in China, but only a handful of them use (2) 江. Do note that the north and south use these words differently as well. I believe the author’s intent here with using (2) 江 was to create a sense of grandeur for this river with this alternative name. If I used stream or creek for (1), then it would make more sense for the translation, but it would be inaccurate in terms of the word and context.

When standing at the outlet of this great river and looking further ahead, one would find a wide, flat expanse with beautiful, well-nurtured water grasses. It could be said that this was the most suitable place for Draco-Bulls to come to.

“This is a good location.” The old demon sighed while standing at the outlet and taking a look around. Then, he chose a good location for Li Qiye.

When the group settled down and took another look, only a huge but faint river could be seen before them. The old demon excitedly said: “We came at the right time, the Draco-Bulls still haven’t left the water yet.”

Li Qiye looked at him and asked: “Are you here for the Immortal Sulfur as well?”

“No, I’m just here to watch the fun.” The old demon quickly smiled and replied: “This little demon will watch Fairy Yuan and Young Noble show your might while I cheer on the sidelines.”

Li Qiye gave him a look and ignored whether he was telling the truth or not. He simply looked at the surging river ahead.

A Draco-Bull was a type of ferocious beast, but others also referred to them as auspicious beasts. Legend states that Draco-Bulls were the offspring of a True Dragon and an Impetuous Bull. Because they carried the bloodline of a True Dragon, they were called Draco-Bulls.

In fact, one could no longer find the bloodline of True Dragons in present day Draco-Bulls, not even the thinnest strand.

If a Draco-Bull contained even the slightest sliver of a True

Dragon's blood, then even if it was the most insignificant amount, this bull would grow up to be a king among its herd. The legend went on to say that such a bull, once it became more powerful, would have a chance at atavism and eventually turn into a True Dragon or Divine Bull.

Of course, people didn't come today for the bulls with this bloodline because everyone knew that there might not be even one with such a bloodline out of ten million Draco-Bulls.

They all came for the Immortal Sulfur droppings from these bulls because they could be sold at an exorbitant price. Sulfur of excellent quality could even reach a sky-high price.

This kind of Immortal Sulfur came from a particular type of bull, Bull-Kings. Of course, the sulfur from a Bull-King was much better than those from an ordinary Draco-Bull. It had great effects, such as detoxification and the ability to dispel evil energy. When combined with other alchemy ingredients, it would have even more amazing effects.

Of course, not all bulls would have Immortal Sulfur. Among one thousand bulls, it was still not likely for one to have Immortal Sulfur. Because of this, its extremely high price was justified.

Moreover, to tell whether a Draco-Bull had Immortal Sulfur or not required an experienced alchemist. They had to look at the colors, demeanor, mane, and horns in order to tell if a Draco-Bull had Immortal Sulfur or not.

One only had the time of a blink of an eye to determine whether a Draco-Bull had Immortal Sulfur or not, so this required rich experience. Only highly skilled alchemists were able to gauge it accurately due to their heightened sensitivity towards alchemy properties. The extremely skillful ones were able to tell an item's alchemy properties just by looking at its colors.

Due to this reason, many cultivators at this time chose to bring along and work together with an alchemist to obtain the Immortal Sulfur.

Draco-Bulls were very fast. They would come out of the river with extreme speed. At the same time, they were quite powerful, so capturing one with Immortal Sulfur was generally not a task that could be accomplished alone.

At this moment, many cultivators looked towards the group of Li Qiye. Of course, they didn't look over here due to any of Li Qiye's outstanding aspects or lack thereof, it was because of Yuan Caihe.

As one of the four prodigies and someone who frequented imperial lineages as an esteemed guest, Yuan Caihe's status in the Stone Medicine World was quite high. Many experts and big shots came to greet her after noticing her presence.

Of course, these people didn't pay attention to Li Qiye. Although humans were a rare sight in this world, no one really took note of him when Yuan Caihe was by his side.

The Golden Leopard Prince was also here with his group of

experts taking up an entire peak that held an advantageous terrain. His cold eyes fell upon Li Qiye.

Of course, this was not because Li Qiye was charming but because he had a Young King Medicine on him — the prince only wanted this medicine. However, he didn't dare to try a more forceful method with Yuan Caihe traveling with Li Qiye.

Naturally, if Yuan Caihe were to leave, then it was an entirely different matter. As long as Li Qiye was alone, the prince would definitely rob him of it.

“There are quite a lot of people here now, not bad, not bad. At least no imperial lineages are here, otherwise there won't be anything to see.” Old Demon Tie Yi took a look around and heaved a sigh of relief as he patted his chest with a cowardly look.

At this time, several thousand experts were gathered next to the outlet. The majority consisted of golems and demons that were in all shapes and forms. Some golems kept their rocky bodies while there were also those who had complete flesh and blood bodies. Of course, the demons were even more varied; some had the body of a serpent and the head of a human while others were in a humanoid form with antlers...

Among the experts here, some took control and claimed their own peaks while others seized the shorelines. There were also those who hovered high in the sky... Most of the cultivators here had an alchemist with them as they waited.

Although Immortal Sulfur was very precious and rare, the source was not limited to just the Celestial Peak Great River. Because of this, only a few of the great powers came here for it.

Li Qiye lightly said after seeing the cowardly appearance from the old demon: “Since you are so afraid of imperial lineages, did you do something unforgivable?”

“Young Noble, you are misunderstanding me again.” The old demon immediately explained himself as if he was making a vow and said: “Think about it, Young Noble. I am but a little demon, so how could I afford to offend imperial lineages? Hahaha, this little ant demon has never seen the world before, so I only got a bit nervous after bringing up imperial lineages.”

Of course, whether Li Qiye believed it or not was unknown since he only responded with a grin.

However, the moment the old demon finished his words, a huge ship directly landed from the sky. It was extremely domineering as it forcefully took the most advantageous shore.

This shore was initially occupied by a big sect, but the ship directly landed without any regard for the cultivators below.

“Get back!” The experts from the sect that were occupying this area were both frightened and furious. Among them, one great master carried all of his disciples away with haste.

“Boom!” The ship landed on the sandy shore and, just like that, it easily occupied this area.

This style was extremely overbearing and completely disregarded everyone, easily enraging others.

In fact, the sect that used to occupy this shore was uncontrollably furious. Their seniors all wanted to come forward and demand an explanation from the other side, but the moment they saw the flag on the ship, they had no choice but to swallow this anger.

“The Radiant-Sea Sect...” The experts from this sect couldn’t help but become astounded after seeing the flag that hung on the ship.

At this time, many people stared at this giant ship and saw that there was a group of people standing above in an extremely mighty manner with surging blood energies. They all came from the demon race; there was an eagle, a tiger, a snake...

They all stood around a woman with quite a beautiful and charming appearance; she was slim and graceful with many different colors. Her waist resembled a snake as it gently moved back and forth, causing quite an alluring scene.

“Radiant-Sea’s Dragon Princess!” Many changed their expressions at the sight of her. Although the giant ship was extremely overbearing, no one dared to say anything.

“It seems that I am not late.” The woman called the Dragon Princess smilingly said as she looked at the surging river.

Although they were extremely aggressive without any care for courtesy, no one dared to accuse them of such at this time.

The reason was quite simple, the Radiant-Sea Sect was a famous imperial lineage in the Alchemy Realm. Its force was quite mighty after being established by Immortal Emperor [Yu Xian](#)! With more than ten countries under its wing, its territory was vast, thus one could easily imagine its strength.

Yu Xian = Radiant Jade.

Chapter 673: Dragon Princess

The Dragon Princess was, of course, not from the Dragon Tribe but just a draconic dynasty. She was the princess of a Serpent Monarch's dynasty under the control of the Radiant-Sea Sect.

Not only was she a princess, she also had great talents. She joined the Radiant-Sea Sect and was the junior sister of their main descendant, the famous Young Noble [Pei Yu](#).

Pei Yu = Jade Ornament/Locket.

As the princess of a serpent tribe's dynasty and the junior sister of an imperial descendant, her status was quite prestigious, so ordinary great powers didn't dare to provoke her. Because of this, it was no wonder why she had such an arrogant and unreasonable style.

"The Radiant-Sea Sect is here as well." Many experts here shuddered after seeing the group of people around her. In fact, everyone here was unwilling to see an imperial lineage arrive because the moment one appeared, most of the sects here had no choice but to run. They essentially didn't dare to compete against one for Immortal Sulfur.

"Shit, the Radiant-Sea Sect." Old Demon Tie Yi's expression changed after seeing this. He wanted to crawl underground due to fear, but he was gripped by the collar by Li Qiye who pulled him up.

"Young Noble, this is the Dragon Princess from the Radiant-Sea

Sect, everyone is afraid of her here in the Alchemy Realm!” The old demon told Li Qiye with a dejected look.

Yuan Caihe chuckled at this poor old demon’s appearance and told Li Qiye: “Brother Li, stop picking on him. It isn’t his fault that he can’t do anything against an imperial lineage.”

At this time, the Dragon Princess standing atop the big ship looked in their direction. The moment she saw Yuan Caihe, her countenance turned cold, and she started to walk over.

Li Qiye let go of the old demon after seeing the Dragon Princess approaching. It was as if the old demon had been pardoned; he heaved a sigh of relief and quickly burrowed into the ground like a cowardly mouse as he escaped far away.

It was clear that the princess was approaching with unfriendly intentions, so Li Qiye asked Yuan Caihe standing next to him: “Do you know her?”

Yuan Caihe slightly nodded in response: “I’ve met her once when Young Noble Pei Yu from the Radiant-Sea Sect came to my Serene Garden for medicine.”

After hearing her answer and looking at the Dragon Princess’s expression, Li Qiye understood what the matter was. It seemed that this Young Noble Pei Yu liked Yuan Caihe, but this Dragon Princess clearly liked her senior brother.

“Oh, isn’t this Yuan Caihe from the Serene Garden?” The Dragon Princess was now very close and gave a charming smile towards them. However, the coldness in her smile made it apparent that she had unfriendly intentions.

Many people were watching this scene play out, and none of them dared to utter a sound. Everyone knew how arrogant the Dragon Princess was; she was willful to the point of being quite unreasonable. Moreover, she came from the imperial family of a great power and was also a genius disciple of the Radiant-Sea Sect. No one dared to mess with her once she gained these as her backings.

Yuan Caihe glanced at her and spoke indifferently: “Dragon Princess, is something the matter?”

“Nothing, I only came to say hello.” The Dragon Princess cheerfully smiled, then her eyes fell upon Li Qiye. Her brows slightly rose as she immediately created a plan. She slightly chuckled and said: “Is this your new lover? Yuan Caihe, your standards are really too low for you to care for a nobody like this. Of course, a bland girl like you who has neither looks nor figure could only get together with a village boy like this.”

This was obviously a bout of jealousy, and any cultivator here who knew a thing or two immediately recognized it. No one would want to be involved in this sort of thing.

“Dragon Princess, do mind your words.” Yuan Caihe’s expression sank as she replied coldly. Although she was not one to compete with others, that didn’t mean she didn’t have a temper.

“Is that so?” The Dragon Princess didn’t care for Yuan Caihe’s warning. She gently shook her wavy waist and positioned herself in front of Li Qiye as she smirked: “Village boy, you need to keep an eye out. When Yuan Caihe sees a new man, maybe she’ll immediately dump you. Keep a leash on your crude girl so that she doesn’t go look for men everywhere...”

“This is none of your business.” Li Qiye raised his brows and slowly said: “A woman of your level shouldn’t stand before me, you’re truly dirtying my eyes.”

Li Qiye’s words astounded many people. There were around ten thousand cultivators present. The majority were from great powers while some even belonged to the previous generation. Even they didn’t want to provoke this Dragon Princess, but now, this seemingly ordinary young man immediately offended her.

The Dragon Princess’s expression dimmed after hearing this. She was a princess as well as one of the most promising disciples of the Radiant-Sea Sect, so how could she stand being denounced by this nobody?

“Naive fool, you think you found a real backing just because you can climb on that whore Yuan Caihe...” Her eyes became fierce with an imposing murderous intent.

“Pop!” Before she could finish her words, Li Qiye’s hand came and slapped her, causing her entire body to fly away for more than ten meters before she got back on her feet.

The Dragon Princess was indeed amazing and had a great cultivation. Even Li Qiye's simple slap couldn't harm her. However, the burning palm mark on her face was very eye-catching.

If Li Qiye's unabashed words from earlier left people dumbfounded, then him slapping her completely froze them all.

This all happened too quickly. No one thought that before the princess could finish her words, Li Qiye would already strike. In this instant, many couldn't react in time and felt dazed.

They stared in disbelief at Li Qiye, and their first thought was that Li Qiye was crazy.

It was indeed crazy since they had never seen such a domineering person before. The princess was from a great power, and more importantly, she was highly valued by the elders of the Radiant-Sea Sect. Some of them even wanted to marry her to Young Noble Pei Yu!

Even if her status was less than an imperial descendant's, it was still quite considerable. Who else would dare to humiliate her like this in front of others unless they were tired of living?

This was not just a slap to the Dragon Princess's face, it also struck the Radiant-Sea Sect. Moreover, the imperial family would not let her suffer such injustice.

“Little animal, I’m going to tear you into pieces today!” The princess shrieked as her fangs came forward, intending to kill Li Qiye.

“Boom!” But before she could close the distance, a gust of wind rushed forward and immediately swept her away. She had to take several staggering steps before being able to regain her balance.

“Who!” Her wrath was now fully incited. Someone had actually sneak attacked her right after being slapped by Li Qiye, blowing her away. How could she restrain this extreme fury any longer?

However, the moment she saw the person standing there, her expression suddenly changed.

At this time, a woman could be seen standing in the sky like an arrogant phoenix, catching the attention of everyone. A woman like this would be at the center of attention no matter where she went.

This woman was noble from birth, so there was no need for her to put on an act. She was a phoenix that had flown out of its golden nest and exuded an indescribable nobility.

Not only was she noble, she was also extremely arrogant and had an aggressive temperament. She held all in disdain while others didn’t dare to look straight at her. Her nobility might be innate, but her contemptuous attitude was intentional.

“The golden daughter of the Jian Clan!” Many were astonished to see the woman as noble as a phoenix ahead.

The golden daughter of the Jian Clan, Jian Wushuang. Her name reverberated loudly across the entire Alchemy Realm not just because of her noble upbringing or how she was an extraordinary genius, but because her fame was inseparable from her incomparable arrogance. She was arrogant to the point of being quite harsh and tyrannical no matter how she acted, and she held no consideration for others.

Everyone knew that Jian Wushuang’s famed arrogance was not reserved for the weak. In fact, she acted that way towards everyone, no matter if they were supreme geniuses or the lord of an entire domain. It could even be said that when she was in a bad mood, she would not give anyone face.

“Princess Jian, you... What are you trying to do?” They were both arrogant, but before Jian Wushuang, the Dragon Princess’s bullying momentum was suddenly cut in half.

She didn’t have matchless confidence like Jian Wushuang, who was always brimming with fearlessness no matter who she met. At this time, the Dragon Princess was both angry and nervous. However, she didn’t dare to air her anger before Jian Wushuang.

If one were to call Jian Wushuang a noble-born phoenix, then the Dragon Princess was only a poseur bird; the two were completely incomparable.

Jian Wushuang looked at the Dragon Princess with one eye and harshly declared: “His dog life is mine. Do not interfere with my business!”

At this time, Jian Wushuang had a haughty attitude that showed she held no consideration for anyone. Many people in the crowd, however, didn’t dare to act up since none of them wanted to mess with Jian Wushuang.

In fact, the entire Alchemy Realm knew that the Jian Clan had always been very doting towards Jian Wushuang. They only had one little daughter like this, so of course, [she was the apple of their eyes, the brightest star in their sky.](#)

These are very common phrases, but it is quite hard to translate to the literal meaning so I used English proverbs. It is saying that they love her so much that they are afraid they will hurt her in their embrace and that she might melt if they keep her in their mouth. It is quite a funny visual if you think about it. Afraid of hurting a baby so much so you can’t bear to hug/carry her. The second one is like an animal holding its baby in its mouth for protection, but it is still afraid of hurting her.

Who would dare to provoke Jian Wushuang who was the focus of all the Jian Clan’s adoration?

Chapter 674: Draco-Bulls Leaving The Water

“Good, nothing could be better if Princess Jian wants his insignificant life. I’ll spare him so Princess Jian can take it.” After being slapped by Li Qiye, the princess felt extremely humiliated. There was nothing she wanted to do more than to peel off his skin and tear out his tendons or even drink his blood.

However, she couldn’t afford to offend Jian Wushuang, so despite her desire to kill Li Qiye, she could only obediently return to her ship after Jian Wushuang made her intentions known.

At this time, Jian Wushuang coldly glared at Li Qiye while he leisurely stood there without batting an eye. His feud with Jian Wushuang had been going on for a long time, but such a trivial matter didn’t bother him.

All the cultivators near the water outlet held their breaths while looking at Li Qiye. Many of them felt that this brat was too unbelievable. Offending the Dragon Princess was one thing, but he even dared to mess with the daughter of the Jian Clan? Who in the Alchemy Realm didn’t know that the Jian daughter was not to be provoked?

Back at her ship, the Dragon Princess coldly glared at Li Qiye and inadvertently revealed a smirk. At this time, she wanted to see Li Qiye’s pitiful state after being killed by Jian Wushuang. Although she couldn’t personally deliver the punishment, being able to watch him die miserably would still be an enjoyable matter.

Meanwhile, the Golden Leopard Prince found the whole thing to be quite regrettable because Li Qiye had a Young King Medicine that he really wanted. However, with Jian Wushuang standing over there, he wouldn't even dare to fart or try to use Ye Qingcheng's name.

"How do you want to die?" Jian Wushuang coldly glared at Li Qiye with her always-arrogant demeanor. In her eyes, Li Qiye was already a dead man.

"Die?" Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve and said: "If you want to die, then I can help you. However, I am not in the mood and have no interest in doing so since I am here to catch Draco-Bulls. If you want to die, then wait and find me afterward."

Li Qiye's incredible response caused many people to become speechless. This fella was truly too much. He actually dared to say that to Jian Wushuang? However, he had just slapped the Dragon Princess without a care so it was not strange for him to provoke Jian Wushuang as well.

Jian Wushuang's eyes narrowed and seemingly became two sharp arrows. At this time, she was surprisingly not angry and instead coldly said: "Very well, I will give you time to prepare a coffin. I'll wait for you to catch a Draco-Bull and get a coffin before I take your dog life so that others won't say that I didn't even give you time to prepare a funeral!"

Jian Wushuang had quite a sharp tongue as well, but this time,

she didn't throw a tantrum and didn't carry out a verbal bout against Li Qiye. In fact, she didn't want to waste time talking to Li Qiye because she had already tasted Li Qiye's sharp words. She felt that she didn't have any advantage in this regard.

“Then wait.” Without batting an eye, Li Qiye lazily responded and proceeded to ignore her.

The arrogant Jian Wushuang was also too lazy to look at Li Qiye any further. She turned around and made her way to the top of a peak. She was in no hurry to kill Li Qiye since, in her eyes, he would be dead sooner or later.

After she left, Yuan Caihe looked at Li Qiye and smiled wryly before softly whispering: “Why must you make this so difficult? [Sometimes, you can take a step back in order to see the boundless open vistas.](#)”

Two different interpretations for this one. First, take a step back to understand how insignificant you are before the endless sky and earth. If you are such a tiny existence, then why bother putting up a front instead of just backing down when possible? Second interpretation to me is to take a step back from a confrontation and it will allow myriad possibilities instead of the inevitable fight.

Li Qiye met her glance and gently smiled, revealing his snow-white teeth: “My vocabulary doesn't include the words ‘take a step back’. When an enemy comes knocking, it is either them running away as far as possible under my mercy, or me letting their blood spurt freely as I walk over their corpse. It is that simple; this is my rule as well as style.”

The quiet Yuan Caihe couldn't help but smile in the face of such a response and didn't say anything else.

At this time, Old Demon Tie Yi raised his head from underground and cautiously looked around before asking: "Did she leave?"

"Yes." Li Qiye glanced at him. He only wanted to stomp him back down into the ground after seeing his cautious demeanor.

Tie Yi looked around for a bit and noticed Jian Wushuang standing in the far distance. He shuddered and immediately withdrew his head back into the ground and whispered: "I, I really should just hide down here, the world outside is too dangerous."

Yuan Caihe only smiled at this sight and said: "Don't worry, no one will do anything to you, so there is no need to hide underground."

The old demon laughed and replied: "Hehehe, Fairy Yuan, I am only a little ant unlike you guys. If I somehow annoy a great character, then they'll kill me with just one stomp."

Li Qiye coldly glanced at him and said: "Are you really an iron ant? In my eyes, it is more appropriate for you to be a mouse demon."

Tie Yi continued to hide in his cave underground and cheerfully explained with a laugh: "Haha, Young Noble, something you might be unaware of is that an iron ant is even more cowardly than a

mouse. Moreover, a mouse is countless times more powerful than an iron ant like me. They can also kill me with one stomp.”

Li Qiye was too lazy to waste time with this cunning Tie Yi, so he shifted his gaze towards the rolling river instead.

Time passed, but the water still surged towards the east with no signs of Draco-Bulls.

“Why are they still not out yet?” Stated some people who couldn’t wait any longer.

“Soon...” Compared to ordinary cultivators, the alchemists here could remain calm while gazing at the water. One of them said: “When the high tide comes again, the Draco-Bulls will definitely come out of the river.”

Although Draco-Bulls were called bulls, they had the habits of dragons. More often than not, they would lurk in the deepest parts of the river for half a year to a year, or maybe even longer.

Just like a dragon, these bulls would just dive deep into the water without eating and enter a long slumber. Moreover, these locations were very hard to find, so cultivators who wanted the sulfur had to wait until they grew hungry and left the water for food.

After coming out, these bulls would crazily eat everything, including all the spirit medicines in a radius of thousands of miles.

After eating, they would dive down again and resume their slumber.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” Finally, when the high tide came again, roaring sounds appeared as the river surface fluctuated. At this time, everyone could feel the earth shake.

They all sensed that a gigantic gate that reached all the way down to the deepest parts of the earth was slowly opening.

“The tide is coming!” No one knew who shouted this out, but at this moment, all eyes were on the suddenly rising river. The alchemists were even more focused because they had to use the shortest time possible to determine which bulls had Immortal Sulfur the moment they come out of the water.

“Mooo!” At this time, bull roars appeared, shaking the entire earth as if a giant drum had been struck.

Numerous dense shadows emerged from within the high tide. All these bulls came out of the water surface from the depths of the river.

“The Draco-Bulls are here!” Someone shouted and immediately, everyone here prepared themselves like winding arrows, poised to fire at any time.

“Spllasshh!” The sounds of water splashing resounded everywhere as the bulls left the water. At this second, flocks of

bulls left the water, and even more were coming one after another.

A Draco-Bull looked like an ox except much sturdier. The main difference was that dragon scales covered their bodies as if they were adorned with armor.

Their horns were thick and considerably sharp and flashed lights as if they could pierce through everything in this world.

“Rumble!” When these Draco-Bulls left the water, they immediately ran like crazy, creating an extremely spectacular scene. It was even more moving than the mobilization of a great army.

They rushed outside of the river, intending to hunt for food to get full in the shortest amount of time so that they could return to the water.

After a brief moment, an alchemist recognized one that had sulfur and immediately shouted: “That one!”

In an instant, a group of shadows rushed towards the herd in order to capture the one that the alchemist pointed out.

“Ahh!” However, among the thunderous explosions was wailing screams. Some of those cultivators who tried to catch the bulls were immediately blown away. Some were even pierced by the sharp horns of the bulls in the blink of an eye.

The Draco-Bulls were not gentle beasts and instead rather ferocious. Ordinary cultivators were no match for them and would be attacked once they were close.

At this time, Yuan Caihe also picked her target. In an instant, she shifted her body and stepped towards one bull like a goddess intending to mount it.

“Go!” Right when Yuan Caihe was approaching the bull, the Dragon Princess also shouted and commanded the experts next to her. Two of these experts immediately rushed after Yuan Caihe in order to steal that bull from her.

The truth was that the Dragon Princess didn't want this particular bull, it was mainly to disrupt Yuan Caihe's plans.

“Ah!” However, the moment these two experts swooped out, they immediately screamed as their blood spurted due to the two arrows that pierced through their skulls, causing their bodies to fall to the ground.

At this moment, Li Qiye was armed with the Nine Words True Bow, and he killed the two experts with two arrows.

This sudden change left the astonished Dragon Princess with an unsightly expression. However, she couldn't do anything about it since Jian Wushuang had already claimed Li Qiye's life; the princess couldn't harm Li Qiye.

At this time, Jian Wushuang was also gazing intensely at Li Qiye. Keep in mind that the Jian Clan was considered to be the most skilled at archery, and their Immortal Emperor Patriarch used the dao of the bow for his ascension. So now, when Li Qiye took action, Jian Wushuang also immediately took note of Li Qiye's archery.

Chapter 675: Secrets Of The Draco-Bull

Amidst the commotion, Yuan Caihe rode her Draco-Bull and instantly disappeared towards the horizon.

“That one!” At this time, the Dragon Princess didn’t have time to trouble Li Qiye as the alchemist standing next to her shouted and picked a bull. The princess shouted out a command and brought a group of experts to chase the target.

Meanwhile, Jian Wushuang also marked her prey. She slightly shifted her figure and immediately went for one of the bulls. It was clear that she was also highly skilled in the dao of alchemy.

She was stronger than the majority of the people here. The moment she soared towards it, this bull immediately pounced forward. However, she immediately flipped it over. The bull knew that it had met a frightening opponent, so it decided to flee to a different direction.

Jian Wushuang roared and gave chase immediately at an alarming speed.

Suddenly, figures fell down one after another. The rapid steps of the Draco-Bulls were accompanied by a melody of screams.

Li Qiye’s gaze glossed over each of the Draco-Bulls that left the water as fast lightning. Of course, he was not looking for sulfur but something else entirely.

Eventually, he set his gaze on a particular bull and gradually walked towards it. It was at this time that a group descended from the sky and instantly blocked his path. They were the Golden Leopard Prince's faction.

"We also want this Draco-Bull, so step aside." The prince said as he blocked Li Qiye's path. Meanwhile, that Draco-Bull had escaped far away in the blink of an eye.

Li Qiye narrowed his eyes and gazed towards the prince only to be met with a snort from him along with a cold response: "Don't make this hard for yourself. If you want to get the Immortal Sulfur, just hand over that Young King Medicine root. If not, then you won't be able to catch that bull..."

However, before he could finish his sentence, a shadow flashed forward and, amidst his confusion, Li Qiye had him gripped by the neck and held in the air.

"How presumptuous!" The experts who accompanied the prince were shocked and instantly rushed forward to protect their master.

"Clank!" But at this moment, Li Qiye's body became a giant lock. In just a split second, a bright flame and gusts of wind appeared, preventing these attacking experts from getting closer to Li Qiye. Then, red chains with the color of flames pierced through all their chests, incinerating them to death. Their miserable wails caused all listeners to shudder.

“Poof!” Plumes of green smoke arose. All the experts that were pierced by the red chains were immediately burnt to a crisp without even leaving ashes behind.

Under the Nine Sun Locking Heaven Law, these experts couldn’t withstand the fire and were killed instantly.

There were many cultivators who still hadn’t left the water outlet. After seeing this murderous scene, many of them felt a chill.

“You... You, dare to do this?!” The prince didn’t expect to run into a steel wall. At this time, he was pale from fear and soiled his pants. He raised his voice and shouted: “I, I am a follower of Young Noble Ye Qingcheng. If you dare to touch a hair of mine, the Young Noble will absolutely not—”

“Clack!” Before he could finish, Li Qiye had already crushed his skull. The prince’s eyes remained wide open. Even at the time of his death, he didn’t know why his monstrous backing didn’t deter Li Qiye.

“Ye Qingcheng? I don’t know him, but so what? If he dares to stop me, then he’ll be killed without mercy.” Li Qiye nonchalantly threw the prince’s skull to the side and wiped his hands.

The cultivators here couldn’t help but shiver after seeing Li Qiye’s leisurely state after murdering the prince’s group of people. They all knew that this seemingly inconspicuous human junior

was a ferocious man. If it was anyone else, then they would definitely show some consideration for Ye Qingcheng.

Li Qiye didn't even bat an eye before turning around to instantly chase after the escaping Draco-Bull.

At this time, who would dare to compete for this bull against Li Qiye? Unless they were tired of living, they would turn a blind eye to it.

Tie Yi, who was hiding underground, eventually showed his head after Li Qiye had left. He patted his chest while still dazed and murmured: "So vicious. Luckily, I didn't offend this demon king or the result would have been unsightly as well."

Having said that, his eyes rolled and cheerfully laughed while saying: "Time to go, gotta pick up the spoils." Then, he disappeared into a cave.

Li Qiye flew in the sky with extreme speed and caught up to the Draco-Bull from earlier in a very short time. Although this bull wanted to escape, Li Qiye locked onto it with his divine intent, so no matter how it tried to escape, it couldn't elude him.

Li Qiye instantly appeared in front of this bull and blocked its path. This bull instantly halted, creating a huge ditch in the ground.

"Hoooo..." At this point, the bull gazed at Li Qiye while breathing

out hot air. A vicious beast like a Draco-Bull would not easily back down.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” This bull gathered all of its energy then immediately rushed towards Li Qiye’s direction at a horrifying speed like an unleashed divine arrow, which was made especially apparent by the pair of horns on its head with their flashing lights; when sprinting in such a manner, it seemed as if this pair of horns could pierce through all things.

However, Li Qiye was unperturbed against this oncoming attack. He stomped down with one foot and pounced forward at an unbelievable speed as well.

“Boom!” Li Qiye and the bull slammed into each other. This explosion horrified all those who heard it. Such a collision was enough to collapse one mountain after another.

The bull was blown flying far away due to the impact, and it crashed into a large forest. Meanwhile, Li Qiye was still standing there, motionless, like an unshakable mountain or hidden rocks under a river, always withstanding the tides of the river.

“Boom!” The bull climbed up as its four hooves stomped onto the ground fiercely, causing the earth to shake. A Draco-Bull was indeed amazing; it suffered zero injuries after such a crash.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The bull was not convinced at all. It, once again, mustered more momentum and used its strongest form to come charging.

Li Qiye only smiled and leisurely said after seeing the bull wanting to test itself again: “If you want to try me, then I’ll show you.” With that, he stomped his foot down twice this time and once again pounced forward.

“Bam!” The result was not unexpected; the bull was blown away by Li Qiye again. This time, blood sprayed out.

Although the bull’s entire body was covered in dragon scales on top of having great power, it was far too lacking compared to Li Qiye’s Hell Suppressing and Soaring Immortal Physiques.

“Boom! Boom! Boom!” The unyielding bull, once again, charged towards Li Qiye, but it was blown away time and time again with no chance to compete.

Eventually, the bull was covered in blood and lied on the ground, gasping for air. It was no longer able to stand up.

Li Qiye smiled and said: “This is more like it. Even if you have ten lives, it still wouldn’t be enough if I really wanted to kill you.”

At this time, he stood in front of the bull and used his hand to tap on its forehead again and again. Banging sounds reverberated from the bull’s head like the echoing of a valley.

“Buzz!” Eventually, a faint sound appeared. The bull’s head finally had a reaction after Li Qiye’s continuous tapping.

“Pop.” Strings of crimson light came out from this bull’s forehead. The streaks of light continuously increased until they were as vast as an ocean. Among this vast ocean, a huge mountain appeared.

“Ba!” This huge mountain flew out from the crimson light inside the bull’s forehead.

“Mooo!” This bull was shocked by this sudden change. Even it didn’t know that there was such a thing in its head. After the huge mountain flew out from its head, the bull ignored all else and ran away despite its injuries, instantly disappearing without a trace.

Li Qiye didn’t chase after it since his goal was not the bull, but the thing ahead. His eyes were fixated on the mountain.

This mountain before him was emitting a huge amount of crimson light as if it was a sea of blood.

However, this monstrous landmass was not a mountain, it was formed from many Blood Era Stones stacked on top of each other.

These Blood Era Stones were without flaw and were absolutely of top quality. Even characters of the God-Monarch level might not be able to enjoy such amazing Blood Era Stones.

These stones were covering a ray of light. After a peeling sound emerged, the stones opened up, creating a dazzling brilliance. In

the blink of an eye, the light rushed out from the stones.

Inside was a dragon, a golden dragon.

“Rawrrrr!” This golden dragon roared towards Li Qiye. It was so powerful that it was as if a True Dragon had descended to the mortal realm. The aura of an extremely tyrannical divine beast filled the sky. Even Heavenly Kings would tremble before this horrifying atmosphere.

“Hold on, old Golden Bull, it’s me!” Li Qiye shouted with a thunderous voice while spewing out mantras. With sonorous sounds, these mantras seeped into the head of the golden dragon.

The initially attacking dragon halted after hearing Li Qiye’s words and changed its mind.

At this time, Li Qiye’s forehead opened and a brand flew out. This brand immediately struck the golden dragon’s body and disappeared inside.

There was a sudden change to the golden dragon once Li Qiye’s brand entered its body. All of the bright lights disappeared. The moment the golden dragon landed on the ground, it turned into a water buffalo.

It was a sturdy looking buffalo without any special characteristics outside of being stronger in appearance compared to other buffalos.

Chapter 676: Imperial Draco-Bull

“This is more like it.” Li Qiye came over while this buffalo was still gazing at Li Qiye. However, it didn’t attack him.

“Take it easy, it’s me.” Li Qiye placed his palm on the beast’s forehead. At this time, his forehead opened once more and out came an endless sea of memories. In this instant, a ray of light from inside quickly entered the buffalo’s head.

A buzzing sound came about the moment Li Qiye’s ray of light disappeared inside the buffalo’s head. A halo with a very sacred feeling appeared above it as if nothing in this world could stain it, as if this halo was empowered by the gods and capable of repelling all evil.

“Mooo!” The moment this halo appeared, the buffalo finally recognized Li Qiye and became extremely excited. It mooed at Li Qiye and used its head to rub against him, looking quite familiar.

“There we go. Although you have left me for a very long time now, I’m still here.” Li Qiye gently tapped the buffalo’s head while smiling.

The buffalo was ecstatic. Its nose spewed out hot air and it kept on rubbing against Li Qiye as if it was seeing a loved one.

Li Qiye patted the buffalo while lightly sighing and said: “It seems that... the descendants of the Celestial Peak Divine School are no longer here, and the Godking’s branch is all but gone. So

many years have passed, but no one came to find you. That means my promise with the Godking also ends here.”

This normal-looking buffalo was not a common one. It was a Draco-Bull, but ordinary Draco-Bulls were nothing compared to it since it had the bloodline of a True Dragon flowing through its veins. Although it had yet to reach atavism to turn into a True Dragon, it was definitely a Divine Bull.

Li Qiye named it the Imperial Draco-Bull, and it was once his mount, following him from one dangerous location to another. If the Tetra-War Bronze Chariot was Li Qiye’s carriage to fight against the world, then the Imperial Draco-Bull was Li Qiye’s preferred mount to enter ominous grounds.

Later on, when Li Qiye let the Godking protect the Celestial Peak Mountains, Li Qiye wanted to make up for the Godking’s effort, so outside of granting him many treasures, he also gave the Imperial Draco-Bull to this Godking.

Later on, the bull followed the Godking and became the school’s Divine Guardian.

Li Qiye looked at the halo above its head and noticed how dim it was compared to before. He gently tapped the bull’s head and said: “Don’t worry, although the Divine School is no longer here, I’ll find an even better lineage with sufficient power to nourish your divinity for you in the future.”

“Moo—” The bull understood Li Qiye and affectionately rubbed

against his palm.

In fact, this bull was already extremely mighty and could have turned into a demon a long time ago. However, it didn't walk on this demonic path since it wanted to become either a True Dragon or a Divine Bull; it chose not to gain intelligence using the dao.

“Let me take a look and see what actually happened back then to the Divine School.” Li Qiye placed his palm on the bull's head, and a radiance flashed. At this time, the bull's sea of memories appeared, allowing Li Qiye to look at the past events of that year.

Many scenes appeared inside the bull's sea of memories. Just like Yuan Caihe had said, the strongest existence of the Divine School dug out the item underground during that time.

The moment it saw the light, it brought doom to the Divine School. Overnight, many people died a pitiful death. Even an existence as powerful as a Godking was still unable to avoid such a fate.

Back then, the slumbering Imperial Draco-Bull was the Divine Guardian, and it woke up from its slumber in astonishment. It rushed out from its cave, but it was too late. In just one night, countless experts had fallen.

It then sealed that item again and went back to sleep, covering itself in Blood Era Stones, awaiting its next awakening.

However, the majority of the Divine School's experts were dead. Later on, the school fell into decline, and not long after, the once monstrous existence collapsed. From then on, the lineage that presided over this territory that spanned millions of miles disappeared from the world.

Because of this collapse, the Godking no longer had any descendants, and no one ever woke up the Imperial Draco-Bull from its hibernation until today.

At that time, Li Qiye made a promise to the Godking that the bull would act as the Divine Guardian for the Godking's main branch. Because of this, although the Divine School had collapsed later on, Li Qiye still didn't come back to wake the bull up.

Millions of years had passed, but no one came to wake up this bull. This meant that the Godking's line had ended, so Li Qiye's promise with the Godking would end here as well.

Li Qiye withdrew his palm from the bull's forehead and couldn't help but lament: "One might be able to survive an act of god, but no one can survive a self-brought calamity. The Godking left behind an edict, yet his descendants chose not to obey and eventually brought about this disaster."

In the past, he let the Godking suppress this land for two reasons. Outside of not letting the item underground see the light of day again, he also wanted to see this land be turned away from evil.

The Godking obeyed his order and suppressed this ground as well

as preventing the world from knowing about the terrible item underground. At the same time, he continued to purify the land, allowing it to be a land of peace as well as building a powerful lineage on top of it. Unfortunately, his descendants didn't listen to his words and dug this thing out, creating a disaster for the school.

Li Qiye sat on the bull and ordered: "Come, we'll go to the old location to take the carriage back."

The bull opened its mouth and swallowed all the Blood Era Stones. Then, with a loud "moo" and great excitement, it raised its hooves and immediately headed for the remnants of the Divine School.

The bull was as fast as lightning, and it hadn't been this happy since a very long time ago. It flew around everywhere; sometimes up to the nine heavens, sometimes down to the great river while at other times, it rode the wind in the sky...

Li Qiye couldn't help but smile while riding the beast, noticing its excitement. In this instant, it was as if he had returned to the past.

The Imperial Draco-Bull could be said to be the best mount in this world. Although Li Qiye's Tetra-War Bronze Chariot was also heaven-defying, Li Qiye found that its potential was more suited for a battlefield.

It was not without reason that Li Qiye thought that the bull was the best mount. It could endure hardships, but more importantly, it was able to dispel poisons and avoid dangers. It could predict

ominous events and evade them. At the same time, it could tread through any terrain. Nothing could compare to it.

If one wanted to enter burial grounds or ancestral earths, then the bull was the best candidate. Even if it couldn't bring one to the deepest parts or the most mysterious parts in these dangerous locations, it would still bring you a fair distance.

Once inside these locations, the bull would avoid danger and try its best to take you out from those places. Illusions and other sinister crises wouldn't be able to impede it.

It excitedly rushed forward and was trying to find the same feeling as before when it brought Li Qiye everywhere in the past.

Eventually, it took Li Qiye back to the old site of the Divine School. The once powerful lineage was now in ruins; the glory of that year was no longer present.

The bull took Li Qiye to a particular location inside the ruins. Heavy bursts of explosions came about when the bull stomped on the ground, splitting it apart and causing an old pavilion inside the crack to float upward.

With a squeaking sound, the old pavilion opened its doors. One could only see a carriage inside, a carriage with a very obsolete and ancient appearance. One wouldn't be able to count how many moons it had experienced.

This common looking old carriage — unbeknownst to others — had been empowered by countless invincible existences. This old carriage could take someone and escape from even ominous grounds.

The bull connected the carriage's reins to its body and dragged the carriage away. Li Qiye faintly smiled and sat inside the carriage to sniff a smell that couldn't be any more familiar.

“Squeakk—” The bull slowly pulled the carriage at a familiar pace just like in the past.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye closed his eyes and let the bull leisurely pull the carriage forward. At this time, Li Qiye suddenly felt as if time was endless; despite the vastness of the world, he could go as he pleased. The endless ages could only allow him to cross through them.

The creaking of the carriage was heard. At this moment, this creaking sound was the most beautiful and pleasant noise to Li Qiye.

The bull was pulling the carriage in a very particular rhythm — not too fast, not too slow. This carriage with one bull and one man seemingly had an eternal and never-changing rhythm. It was as if nothing could be more intoxicating than its cadence.

Eventually, the bull stopped as it was now standing in the centermost location of the Divine School. The moment the carriage stopped, Li Qiye, who was resting with his eyes closed,

immediately opened his eyes.

He jumped down from the carriage and looked at the ruins in front of him before asking the bull: “It is at this place?”

“Mooo—” The bull let out a deep cry before slightly nodding its head. Meanwhile, Li Qiye couldn’t help but become serious while staring at this site.

“Hopefully, the thing has been refined, or else it will be a bit problematic.” Li Qiye gazed at the ground as if he wanted to see right through this land.

Eventually, he took a deep breath and assumed a dignified expression before commanding the bull: “Take it out. Regardless of whether it has been refined or not, we must bring it away. Back in those times, it was not illogical for the Ancient Ming to covet this item so badly. So now, we’ll dig it out and take it away.”

Having said that, a series of explosions appeared. One treasure after another emerged above Li Qiye’s head: the Yin Yang Immortal Mirror, the Declivity-Bell, the green lamp, the Heaven Sealing Pentagate... These treasures poured down extremely powerful universal laws to protect Li Qiye.

Chapter 677: Challenge

At this time, Li Qiye was prepared for the worst. He hoped that after a period of millions of years, that item would have been refined. However, he had to ready himself just in case.

“Rumble...” A burst of roaring sounds emerged when the bull opened up this ground. Waves of formations came out from below along with radiant lights as if they wanted to illuminate this entire area.

This was a great formation meant for suppression. Back then, when the Imperial Draco-Bull woke up, it forcefully threw the thing into this formation.

Eventually, an item appeared inside the great formation. This was an old urn that was very coarse with rough lines. It seemed to be from an extremely ancient era.

Li Qiye couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief after seeing the urn intact and murmured: “It seems that that thing didn't break out of the urn just yet.” Having said that, he went forward and picked it up with his hands for a meticulous examination. He felt the changes inside and found nothing. This made him nod approvingly as he mused: “Very good, it seems to be very effective.”

This old urn was left behind by Li Qiye for the Imperial Draco-Bull in the past. Although Li Qiye was confident in the Godking protecting this area, he was still preparing for the worst. The

Godking wouldn't have dug the item out, but he couldn't be sure about others.

Because of this, he left this pottery urn to the bull. This urn had a frightening origin; it was from an extremely ancient era and held amazing power. If one day the item underground was dug out by someone, then the bull could use this old urn to suck in that thing and suppress it underground once more.

The truth was that the tension from the war was quite high, so Li Qiye couldn't observe the thing underground in detail. He was unsure whether the urn could suppress it or not. However, he didn't have sufficient time back then, so he couldn't prepare further. After leaving this urn behind, he immediately left.

"I have to look into it a bit if there is time later." Since there was no activity in the urn, Li Qiye planned to take this thing along with him. He activated the pentagate. With a thunking sound, the gates fell down and began to seal this old urn.

At this time, the gates turned into a bronze box and suppressed the urn inside.

This was also a precaution in case the worst happened. If the thing inside the urn still had its power, then it could still escape from within. However, under the suppression of the pentagate, it would be prohibitively difficult for it to run out.

Do note that the pentagate claimed to be able to seal the heavens. In fact, it had indeed sealed a heaven in the form of an entire world

before! Because of this, Li Qiye was able to relax after putting the old urn inside the pentagate.

Even if it could escape the urn, Li Qiye was confident that it wouldn't be able to escape the suppression from the pentagate. If it could do so, then there wouldn't be too many things in this world that could imprison it.

Li Qiye happily put away the pentagate then went back to his carriage and ordered the bull: "We'll go back and take a look at the Celestial Peak River."

Of course, he was going back not to find Old Demon Tie Yi, but to meet up with Yuan Caihe again. In fact, he didn't give a damn about the old demon.

The Imperial Draco-Bull took its time pulling the carriage towards the Celestial Peak River while the squeaking sound rang in Li Qiye's ears. While sitting in the carriage, he closed his eyes, immersing himself within the rhythmic sound, causing him to be lost in time. However, he gently sighed inside since he knew full well that he would never be able to return to those days.

Although he was now sitting inside the carriage of the past and his mount was still the Imperial Draco-Bull, many things had been lost and many events had dispersed into fleeting clouds and puffs of smoke.

For example, the Sword Goddess that once served him, or that arrogant heaven's proud daughter... or those peerless generals that

waged war in all the domains for him...

Everything vanished in the long river of time. His carriage, his bull, and he himself were still here like before, but those who stood beside him with the utmost loyalty and will to serve him for an entire lifetime... were all gone.

For tens of millions of years, the people who stood by his side kept changing from one group to another, but he was still the same as he moved forward. On the cruel path of the grand dao and the endless river of history, there seemed to only be the accompaniment of an unspeakable loneliness.

Eventually, he smiled wryly and shook his head to chase all of these old scenes out of his mind. Ever since he arrived at the Giant Bamboo Country, he had become quite sentimental. Perhaps Yan'er had made him remember too many things in the past, or maybe it was her tenderness that was something he couldn't forget.

While he was recalling the past in his seat, the carriage slowly came to a halt.

He thought that they had arrived at the river, but after opening his eyes for a look, he only saw one person blocking his path.

The person standing in front blocking the way was the Jian Clan's golden daughter, Jian Wushuang, who was as proud as a phoenix.

Seeing Jian Wushuang's imposing and extremely arrogant attitude, Li Qiye couldn't help but narrow his eyes and slowly utter: "As the saying goes, a good dog does not block the street. Get out of my way."

"Li Qiye, there is no need to show off your capable tongue. I won't be wasting words with you, I am only here to take your dog life." Jian Wushuang glared at him with her always-aggressive demeanor that didn't change no matter where she went.

It was as if there was no one in this world that was her equal. No matter who it was, she would always look at them with contempt while showing off her superiority. No one could enter her sight. She was supercilious to the extreme as if no one had ever been able to make her bow her proud head.

After hearing her words, Li Qiye finally remembered what she said back at the river. The truth was that he never paid her any mind, so he didn't bother to hear what she was saying before.

"Do you want to fight?" Li Qiye didn't bother batting an eye and slowly said: "No problem, we can fight. However, I have to meet someone first."

"Yuan Caihe, right?" Jian Wushuang sneered and said: "Don't worry, she is fine and is still chasing that one bull. However, it is better if you don't see her. Being separated by life and death is ultimately a terrible thing. Do you really want a girl like Yuan Caihe to see your dying figure?"

Li Qiye couldn't help but glance at her after hearing her response and quipped: "This is truly rare; an uneducated and uncultured girl like you still has a little bit of compassion. This is really a first, is the sun rising from the west today?"

Li Qiye's remark made Jian Wushuang angry to the point where her pretty eyes were spewing out glints of fury. However, this was not her first time experiencing Li Qiye's razor sharp tongue. His words were capable of enraging people to death.

Jian Wushuang harshly said: "I'm not wasting my breath on you!" She had always been good at verbal jabs, but before Li Qiye, she never held the advantage, so she decisively chose to quit while she was ahead to not bring about further humiliation.

She coldly stared at him and said: "I'm afraid you won't be able to escape. Now that you are in my sight, there will be no chance to run. I suggest for you to face death head on. At the very least, I will give you a fair chance for battle. Although you will still die in the end, at least you tried."

It had to be said that her unique arrogance was very straightforward and upright. Although she had wanted to kill Li Qiye for some time now, even to the point of torturing him, she still chose to meet him in the open in a direct confrontation despite her hatred. Even though Li Qiye's foul mouth was truly vicious, she still gave him a chance for battle.

This was the demeanor of an imperial descendant. No matter how annoying Jian Wushuang was, in this regard, she was worthy of being someone who came from an imperial lineage.

Li Qiye looked at her for a moment. Suddenly, a flash ran through his eyes. He revealed a smirk and leisurely said: “Since you want to kill me so badly... Fine, I’ll die then. You can watch.”

This reply caused her to be startled. Li Qiye had always been arrogant and put up an aggressive front whenever they fought before, so now, him suddenly going along with her caused her to look at him suspiciously.

Li Qiye smiled and nonchalantly said: “Don’t worry, there is no scheme or anything. Since you want me to die, I’ll die for you to see.”

No matter what Li Qiye was planning or what scheme he concocted, Jian Wushuang was confident in herself as always.

She looked down at him and laughed before aggressively declaring: “Since you didn’t bring along a coffin, I will show mercy and give you a chance. You can pick the location, one that you’ll want your grave to be located so that you can’t complain about me not even giving you a chance to die with a burial.”

“Very well, I also want to die at a pretty location.” Li Qiye smiled calmly and said as if he was at home: “People only die once in their lifetime, so if I were to die, then of course it has to be at a beautiful landscape. This should, at least, be a memorable event for me.”

Li Qiye’s carefree and cheerful expression made it seem as if he was talking about someone else. Others would lose their mind at

the thought of death, but Li Qiye was talking about it as if it was completely trivial, as if he was simply tired of living.

Chapter 678: Starshattering Bow

Even the haughty Jian Wushuang couldn't help but stare suspiciously at Li Qiye. This sudden change was extremely strange and unlike his usual style at all. In this short period of time, she didn't know where the problem was, but she still arrogantly smiled and said: "Come, let us pick a nice location for your burial."

Li Qiye ignored her and prodded the bull before closing his eyes to rest in the carriage, leaving the bull to take him away.

Jian Wushuang also didn't care for whatever Li Qiye was plotting as she followed behind him. In her mind, no matter what he was planning, it was not worth mentioning since she could easily crush his schemes.

Eventually, Li Qiye found a place that was not only beautiful, but also remote without signs of others on their way. After arriving, Li Qiye took another look around and was quite pleased with himself.

"Good, this is the place. A beautiful scenery, quiet and elegant without any disturbance. Nothing could be better than this for my resting place." Said Li Qiye with a leisurely smile after jumping down from the carriage.

He patted the bull's head, then the bull dragged the carriage away, disappearing instantly.

At this time, Jian Wushuang was standing on top of a hill, looking down at Li Qiye as she coldly sneered: "You have found

your grave, so get ready to die.”

She had always been a proud person who enjoyed standing on the high ground. Looking down on all existences with disdain gave her a sense of superiority.

Li Qiye also stopped on a peak and took a look around. He took out the Nine Words True Bow and slowly said: “Okay, I am ready, but do not disappoint me. If you can’t kill me, then I would have to jump off a building to kill myself.”

Li Qiye’s words made no sense and caused others to think that he was tired of living. Even Jian Wushuang found it strange. Her eyes became serious and seemed like two sharp arrows locked onto Li Qiye.

“You don’t have to worry about that since you will die to my arrow. However, since you are so compliant, I will leave your corpse intact.” Said Jian Wushuang with a sneer. With that, she slowly took out a long bow.

The moment this long bow appeared, it was as if a star had fallen from the sky. The bow appeared to be a star in her hand, taking in and spewing out cold starlight. Although the starlight was not dazzling, it gave off the feeling that it could illuminate the entire sky.

Each individual streak of starlight was like a divine arrow that was capable of piercing gods and firmaments all the same. All of the arrows had a merciless intent that sent chills deep into people’s

bones.

“The Starshattering Bow.” Li Qiye smiled after seeing the bow in her hand and freely smiled: “It seems that you really are the favorite daughter of the Jian Clan. To think they actually passed down this bow to you. This is truly a good bow. When Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian was young, this was his weapon of choice while battling the nine heavens and ten earths...”

“... This bow was refined using the deepest star in the sky of the Mortal Emperor World, a star that spanned for tens of millions of miles was turned into this one bow. Although it didn’t come from your patriarch, it still accepted the nourishment of his blood energy on top of being powerful already.” Li Qiye mused after seeing this bow.

Jian Wushuang was surprised to hear Li Qiye’s knowledge regarding the origin of her bow. She sneered and said: “You do know a lot!”

Li Qiye didn’t mind at all and continued: “That’s not all I know. Although people say that Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian used the bow to prove his dao, this was actually not the case. Before shouldering the Heaven’s Will, your patriarch had once thrown away the Starshattering Bow and trained with a different type of weapon until he finally became an emperor! Thus, your emperor didn’t use the bow to prove his dao.”

“So what?!” Although Jian Wushuang was slightly stunned, she still harshly said: “Since the start of time, my ancestor alone was invincible with regards to archery; his archery skill was number

one!”

“I will not deny that.” Li Qiye said with a relaxed smile: “Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian, after becoming an emperor, had done one thing that many emperors did not do. He cut off part of his body and burned it down to form a bow. Just like that, the number one bow across the eons was born. Its power was no weaker than your patriarch’s true fate weapon. It could even be said to have surpassed the limits. Only with that bow in his hand was your patriarch’s archery considered unbeatable, becoming capable of looking down on all the other emperors!”

Li Qiye’s tale left Jian Wushuang in a daze for a while because not too many people knew about this story. How could a no-named junior like Li Qiye recall it so well with such familiarity? This was outside of her expectations.

Li Qiye happily said: “Unfortunately, the bow in your hand is only the Starshattering Bow. If you were wielding your patriarch’s bow, then I would actually not try to court death so carelessly. However, this is a good thing since killing me with the Starshattering Bow is quite appropriate.”

“Don’t worry, I will be using a different bow very soon.” Jian Wushuang sneered and drily said: “Wait until I kill you, then I will replace it with the bow in your hand.”

She was indeed worthy of being the golden daughter of the Jian Clan. She never cared about other people’s weapons since, to her, they couldn’t compare to her own.

However, she was tempted this time. Although she already had the Starshattering Bow, she was still moved by the Nine Words True Bow in Li Qiye's hand. Intuition told her that his bow was even better and more powerful than her own.

"You have a very keen vision." Li Qiye laughed and gently stroked the bow in his hand as he leisurely said: "This bow is the best bow throughout all of eternity, it is completely peerless. In the future, this bow of mine will be even stronger than your patriarch's bow."

"Even a better bow would only be rotting in your hands." Jian Wushuang arrogantly declared: "Only in my grasp will it become the number one bow in all of history!"

Although she was an arrogant bully and was quite annoying, it was still quite cute. At the very least, she was frank about it, unlike some other geniuses who only made up excuses to satisfy their greed for the possessions of others.

"Are you saying that I should be happy for my bow now that it has met you?" Li Qiye relaxingly said: "However, I am in a good mood this time, so I won't hold that comment against an ugly girl like you. If you actually manage to kill me, then I'll fulfill your wish, I shall give this bow to you."

She trembled with rage after hearing Li Qiye's words. Although she couldn't call herself the number one beauty in the Stone Medicine World, she was still within the top ten. The men who

courted her could line up from the north to the south side of this entire world, so how could she not be enraged by this nobody calling her an ugly girl?

Earlier, she felt that Li Qiye's mouth had become less toxic, but now, she only wanted to break his jaws.

Of course, Li Qiye didn't care about her mood. He only smiled and waved his sleeve to say: "Since you want me to die, I'll let you have the first move."

Jian Wushuang's murderous intent was surging due to her anger. But in the end, she was still an imperial descendant. She took a deep breath to calm her emotions and maintained her best possible condition. She glared at him and arrogantly said: "You dare to let me attack first in an archery battle? Do you really think you can escape from my arrow? But I am merciful so I will give you a chance to change your weapon!"

The innately proud Jian Wushuang thought that Li Qiye daring to compete in archery with her was truly a foolish decision, and she didn't want to take advantage of him.

In response, Li Qiye leisurely smiled and said: "No need, I will use this bow instead of changing weapons."

"In that case, prepare to die!" Jian Wushuang didn't want to waste her breath anymore as a glint flashed in her sharp eyes while she held her bow.

At this critical moment, Li Qiye waved his sleeve and said: “Wait a minute.”

Jian Wushuang rolled her eyes at Li Qiye and sneered: “Oh? Regretting it now? It is too late though! Only death awaits you today!”

Li Qiye chuckled and leisurely uttered: “Who says I’m changing my mind? It’s just that I don’t want others to watch on the sideline.”

With that, he drew his bow and prepared an arrow. With a wind-destroying whistle, the arrow shot all the way to the sky.

“Pop!” The sound of something breaking emanated from the sky, followed by what seemed to be pieces of glass falling down. It was as if a heavenly mirror had been shattered by his arrow.

“Good shot.” Said Jian Wushuang drily as she gazed at the sky and saw the falling broken pieces.

After Li Qiye destroyed the item in the sky, a carriage could be found stopped outside of the Celestial Peak Mountain on a certain hill, one that couldn’t look any more ordinary.

There was a heavenly mirror inside the carriage that also shattered into countless pieces after Li Qiye destroyed the one in the sky.

This caused the old woman sitting in the carriage to startlingly stand up with a fierce glare; this was a pair of frightening eyes with an entire rotating galaxy inside. These eyes illuminated the world when they aimed for the horizon.

“Grandma, no need to rush. I can still sense them a little bit. He has great senses so we don’t need to get too close.” At this time, a very pleasant voice came from inside the carriage as if it was the hymn of an immortal. Many would most likely become bewildered by this voice.

If Li Qiye was here, he would be able to recognize this carriage because it was the one that trod the same path as him all the way from the Giant Bamboo Country to the Celestial Peak Mountain.

At this moment, during the confrontation between Li Qiye and Jian Wushuang, Li Qiye stood there in a comfortable manner; he was very casual as if this was not a duel at all.

Chapter 679: Watch Me Die

Li Qiye's demeanor left Jian Wushuang vomiting blood from anger. His carefree attitude was simply an affront to her! She might not be the best genius in the Stone Medicine World, but she could still look down on the entire younger generation. But now, Li Qiye was treating this life and death battle so indifferently that it caused her to want to tear him apart.

“Die!” Her eyes narrowed and turned into a sharp glare like an arrow. In this moment, the Starshattering Bow in her hands lit up instantly and unleashed a shot. This arrow was incredibly fast and completely beyond one's imagination. Space suddenly shattered as it traveled through the void.

Not only was it fast, it was absolutely domineering. Under this arrow, heaven and earth cried out as if even the stars in the distant horizon would shatter if struck by this arrow.

Li Qiye was still carefree in the face of this arrow. He only casually shot out one arrow in response as if he was courting death.

The result was not surprising at all. “Poof!” Li Qiye's arrow was instantly destroyed by Jian Wushuang's arrow, and her arrow maintained its previous velocity while heading straight for Li Qiye.

“Whooosh!” This arrow penetrated his chest, causing his entire body to be blown away, ultimately resulting in him being nailed to the side of a mountain.

It shot through his chest, causing his blood to spurt everywhere. It was as if Li Qiye had died as his eyes suddenly closed.

However, in a split second, a gray matter appeared in the middle of the penetrated and bloodied chest cavity of Li Qiye. In a flash, all the separated flesh and blood that was splashing everywhere receded back in place like a tide at an unbelievable speed and went back to Li Qiye's body.

Next, Li Qiye's penetrated chest suddenly healed. A gray mark appeared in front of his chest, then it disappeared into his body.

This scene was extremely strange and inconceivable because this was absolutely impossible. Unless one could reverse time itself, this could never happen.

However, Jian Wushuang was absolutely certain that this was not time reversal! This development left her with a shocked expression. She was one hundred percent confident in her arrow, that it would not only destroy Li Qiye's body, but also his True Fate.

However, not only did he not die, his wounds immediately healed in a split second. No one would believe such an incredible tale if told.

"Did you forget to eat breakfast?" Li Qiye stood up with a slightly pale countenance, but he was still quite spirited as he smilingly said: "Your arrow had no force at all. It couldn't even destroy my

body, let alone my inner physique or True Fate.”

This comment left Jian Wushuang shaking with anger. Her pretty eyes turned fierce as she cried out:” Die!”

In just a moment, three arrows tore through space. These three were even more powerful and dominating than the previous one.

What was even more frightening was that these arrows aimed straight for Li Qiye’s weak points. No matter how he tried to dodge, they would penetrate the weak points predetermined by Jian Wushuang — they were simply unavoidable.

“Pluff! Pluff! Pluff!” However, Jian Wushuang overplanned things. Li Qiye didn’t even try to dodge as the three arrows penetrated his body in the blink of an eye. Deep bloody holes appeared on his body as flesh and blood spattered about.

However, the same frightening event happened. In just a moment, the wounds and spattered flesh and blood were infused by a gray shade and receded like a tide back to its original location. Li Qiye’s wounds immediately closed, and the same gray seals appeared once more.

“Die!” With an astonished look, Jian Wushuang caused her blood energy to erupt. The Starshattering Bow became a sun, and countless gigantic arrows flew out like stars.

In this moment, the heaven and earth was bombarded by

countless gigantic arrows; the sun and the moon lost their brilliance. With this arrow formation, she could massacre saints and gods with an extremely overbearing style.

This endless rain of arrows struck Li Qiye's body. In just a second, his flesh blew everywhere. However, the tiny remnants of Li Qiye's body all turned gray and came back again as he instantly healed.

The arrow formation continued its barrage on Li Qiye, annihilating his body over and over again. However, his recovery ensued right afterward each time.

What was even more terrifying was that after each time he was "killed", more gray matter would appear around Li Qiye's spattered remains and become even thicker. Moreover, the gray seals became increasingly larger as his wounds closed time and time again.

However, the thing that frightened Jian Wushuang the most was her discovery that after each time she shot Li Qiye, the effectiveness of her divine arrows on Li Qiye continuously lessened. In the beginning, she could penetrate and destroy his chest with just one arrow, leaving behind a huge hole. However, as time went on, she could still penetrate his chest, but it only left behind a little bloody dimple.

It was as if the more injuries he received, the stronger his body grew. He could now withstand even more shots from the divine arrows.

She didn't know that he wasn't getting stronger from having more wounds, it was that he was accumulating even more Death Energy after suffering grave injuries. Because of this, his Death Seal became even stronger. The Death Seal was one of the four great techniques of the Death Scripture. It was able to transform injuries into Death Energy. The greater the wound, the greater the amount of converted energy.

Of course, as the Death Seal garnered even more energy, it became increasingly powerful, making it harder for others to hurt Li Qiye.

Because of this, Jian Wushuang's onslaught became less and less effective due to the increasing efficacy of the Death Seal.

Of course, Li Qiye chose Jian Wushuang for a reason.

The Death Seal was able to convert injuries into energy. However, when applying this art, one would be greatly affected if they couldn't find a suitable opponent.

For example, if the opponent was much weaker than Li Qiye, then even if they could hurt Li Qiye when he was using the Death Seal, this injury would be too trivial and it wouldn't help the gathering of Death Energy.

On the contrary, if Li Qiye picked a far too powerful opponent like a great Virtuous Paragon, then although the Death Seal could still withstand the terrifying damage as well as accumulate a

monstrous amount of Death Energy, the critical injuries would leave behind an incalculable trauma. An injury of this level would be eternal and would persist even after rebirth.

Under this permanent damage, even if one could recreate everything and come back from death, they would need to spend countless efforts and take a long period of time to completely treat such a wound.

Picking a strong opponent like that was very unwise, even for a Death Seal user.

Li Qiye picked Jian Wushuang because her strength was very appropriate. She was able to cause enough damage and even kill him. However, she was unable to inflict an eternal wound.

Because of this, she was the most suitable person for Li Qiye to accumulate his Death Energy.

“Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!” The giant arrows kept on pouring down like rain. Jian Wushuang was furious, and her blood energy was blaring loudly as she concentrated all of it into her Starshattering Bow.

She crazily pulled her bow string with her most violent stance, mustering her most ferocious attack to kill Li Qiye. Under the assault of endless giant arrows, the earth was being torn to many pieces.

It could be said that under such a crazy offense, Li Qiye himself was being blown into little pieces with his body parts flying everywhere. His head was penetrated time and time again.

However, the Death Seal that belonged to the Death Scripture, one of the Nine Grand Heavenly Scriptures, was peerless even across the long thread of time. There was no merit law or secret law in this world that was stronger than these scriptures.

Under Jian Wushuang's bombardment, Li Qiye's broken body healed at an unbelievable speed. The more injuries he received, the more energy he gathered, causing the damage that she inflicted to greatly lessen over time.

“Die already!” In the end, Jian Wushuang crazily roared. Her pretty eyes were glowing like a scorching sun. With a buzzing sound, the entire arrow formation disappeared in a split second. All of its energy gathered into one arrow that seemed to be heralding the arrival of an Immortal Emperor; it was as if an emperor himself was pulling on the bowstring!

Although the Starshattering Bow was not refined by Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian since it was created during a much more ancient age, it had followed him for his entire life so it was bathed in a very powerful imperial aura.

This one arrow instantly obtained invincibility the moment it was shot out. Time itself mouldered and myriad worlds shattered. This arrow would annihilate even immortals and gods since it had already achieved supremacy.

Against such an arrow, layers of barriers appeared before Li Qiye's True Fate, such as the Kun Peng jumping in the sky with floating stars. There was also an endless sea that contained countless tidal waves blotting out the sky along with a great continent that empowered his momentum. In this split moment, the Kun Peng's Six Variants transformed into a mighty defense for Li Qiye's True Fate.

This could be said to be Li Qiye's true first move as layers of powerful defenses protected his True Fate.

“Bang—!” Jian Wushuang's impeccable arrow was absolutely capable of massacring a Heavenly King with ease!

Thus, Li Qiye's multiple barriers could not withstand this arrow. All of them shattered one after another.

Ultimately, this arrow shot through Li Qiye's last barrier that protected his True Fate. However, after piercing through this barrier, the power of this arrow had been significantly reduced.

“Pop!” Even though Li Qiye's True Fate derived countless laws and had a moon and sun orbiting around the last barrier, this arrow still shot through these laws and bypassed the moon and sun. Due to the momentum of the arrow, Li Qiye's True Fate was penetrated.

“Pluff!” Li Qiye's body, that had already come back together, fell to the ground after his True Fate was shot by the arrow. His body

immediately fell flat on the ground with his legs kicked upward.
His eyes immediately closed as he tasted death on the spot.

Chapter 680: Rebirth

Jian Wushuang couldn't help but let go of the bow in her hand. She heaved a long sigh of relief after seeing the arrow pierce his True Fate. She had always been arrogant and confident. However, she was thoroughly horror-struck this time. Li Qiye never did anything as she unleashed her bombardment upon him, yet she still struggled to kill him. If Li Qiye actually took action, then the consequences would have been unthinkable.

She became relieved as her ultimate arrow attack was finally able to kill Li Qiye.

However, just when her sigh came out, a faint peeling sound appeared. A white flower with eighteen petals emerged from Li Qiye's forehead. In this very instant, the white flower slowly bloomed, and one of the petals lit up with a shining light.

In just a moment, a white petal appeared inside Li Qiye's true fate. As the light radiating from the petal descended on the true fate, a loud blast occurred. The dead Li Qiye with a shattered true fate emitted myriad laws into the sky like an endless flood as his true fate once again derived a boundless grand dao. With that, the true fate flew back into his palace, then Li Qiye stood upright.

Amidst the commotion, Li Qiye's entire body was shrouded by a lingering gray death energy. Inside this death energy, Li Qiye immediately recovered his original form, including his shattered fate palaces and pierced head; all of them returned back to their initial state as if nothing had happened. Inside the death energy, all reverted back to their origin!

“The taste of death...” Li Qiye emotionally commented as the white flower flew back inside his forehead before instantly disappearing. Only one of the eighteen petals on the flower had a flashing glimmer at this moment.

“Thud!” Jian Wushuang was shaken and staggered a couple of steps backward after witnessing Li Qiye’s rebirth.

The proud girl had never been afraid of anything, not even someone stronger than her and capable of defeating her. She came from an imperial lineage and knew that defeat was not something to be shameful about. Even Immortal Emperors had lost at times, let alone other people.

Therefore, she had never been afraid to fail. As long as she had this invincible heart, she would never falter; as long as she had her confidence, she would not be afraid of defeat!

However, defeat had nothing to do with the current situation. The fearless girl had finally been frightened to the point of having a pale complexion.

Death was a common sight to her, but this was her first time seeing someone be reborn after being killed by her. She was absolutely sure that her last arrow had killed Li Qiye and that those who were killed by her, no matter if they were Virtuous Paragons or a top genius like Ye Qingcheng, wouldn’t be able to revive themselves.

Under her ultimate arrow, death was assured! Even a Golden Immortal of the Great Firmament wouldn't be able to save them!

However, Li Qiye was still alive and well without any injury as if nothing had happened!

This was absolutely impossible. There was no merit law in this world that could allow people to come back from death. Of course, this was referring to a true state of death.

With a blanched expression, it was as if Jian Wushuang had seen the most unbelievable thing in this world.

Of course, she didn't know that Li Qiye cultivated the Death Scripture, and the Death Record was one of the four great arts within. The white flower with eighteen petals from earlier was the Death Record. The moment when Li Qiye died, it lit up one of the petals.

For the Death Record, death was a good thing. There was a mantra inside the technique: One fate accumulated from three deaths, one item formed from six deaths, one life changed from nine deaths, and eighteen deaths to reach the high heavens.

Of course, it was not so easy to die. For example, with Li Qiye at his current level, how could it be easy to kill him? Moreover, it would become progressively more difficult to die. Even if Li Qiye wanted to commit suicide, he wouldn't be able to do so. Of course, dying from old age didn't count since even the four arts of the Death Scripture wouldn't be able to save one from a depleted

lifespan.

Li Qiye took a long breath. He had finally died once — this was indeed not easy. He truly chose the right person; Jian Wushuang was an excellent grindstone.

“It is unfortunate that you are still weak. If that arrow was like your patriarch’s when he was younger and dominating, then I wouldn’t be so comfortable right now. Even if I could come back to life, I would be bedridden for one or two years. You are still lacking a bit, so you need to try harder in the future. Of course, you have to leave alive today to have that chance.” Said Li Qiye with a very comfortable appearance.

Death was a terrible thing for other people, but it seemed that Li Qiye was enjoying the sensation very much.

Jian Wushuang didn’t know that Li Qiye was telling the truth. If she was too strong, then the arrow that had killed him would leave behind an eternal wound that even the rebirth via the Death Record wouldn’t be able to expel. Only time would be able to heal such a wound.

Jian Wushuang’s strength was too fitting for Li Qiye since her ultimate arrow was able to kill him without leaving an eternal wound.

“You, you, what evil arts are you practicing?” With a shocked expression and great anxiety, she glared at Li Qiye.

“Evil arts?” Li Qiye couldn’t help but laugh and say: “If I am cultivating an evil art, then all the merit laws in this world are worse than elementary evil arts. Ugly girl, I cultivate the most righteous and proper merit law in this world, the ultimate profundity of the dao, got it?”

Normally, Jian Wushuang would definitely become angry at being called an ugly girl like before. However, she had no reaction this time, she could only stare at Li Qiye with a solemn expression without saying anything.

After a while, she coldly stated: “You purposely tricked me here to test your evil art, using me as a grindstone!”

“Correct. It looks like you aren’t too dumb, you finally guessed it.” Li Qiye leisurely smiled and said: “Unfortunately, there is no prize.”

Jian Wushuang snorted while looking at him with her sharp and pretty eyes.

“If you run away now, maybe there is a chance that I will spare your life. After all, I am in a good mood.” Li Qiye cheerfully said while looking at the still-proud Jian Wushuang.

Jian Wushuang’s expression darkened. However, she was still arrogant, and with complete confidence, she coldly replied: “Run? I have never ran before. If I can kill you once, then I can kill you a second time. Hmph! I want to see how many more times you can revive yourself. Revive again and I’ll kill you again until you can’t

revive anymore!”

“You are mistaken.” Li Qiye smiled and gently shook his head: “If you continue to use your Starshattering Bow, then it won’t be easy to kill me a second time. Since you have killed me once with it, it is essentially impossible to kill me a second time, unless you step into the Virtuous Paragon realm right now. If not, then you have to change your weapon. Of course, it needs to be much stronger than the Starshattering Bow at the very least.”

Having said that, Li Qiye laughed and said: “Even if you bring your patriarch’s Immortal Emperor Life Treasure here, its attack would not be much more powerful than that last arrow, unless you could unleash an Imperial Massacre. Another option would be if you had that bow from him. Otherwise, it truly wouldn’t be easy for you to kill me again.”

Li Qiye’s words left Jian Wushuang gritting her teeth. She wished that she could take a good bite of his flesh right now.

“Fine, you are very amazing. If you dare, then name your merit law and I will definitely have a way to kill you so that you will never get up again. Of course, if you are a coward who is afraid of death, then forget it.” Said Jian Wushuang with a sneer.

Li Qiye burst out in laughter and clapped his hands after hearing this and responded: “Ugly girl, although you are very annoying with no likable qualities, at least you aren’t an idiot like those girls with big breasts and no brain. You’re just a little bit better since you know how to goad others...”

“... But I’m sorry to say that this type of goading is completely useless against me.” Li Qiye paused for a bit at this point before continuing: “It is not that I don’t want to tell you, it’s just that even if I did, I’m afraid you wouldn’t know what it is. If I told you and you hadn’t even heard of it, then it would be too much of a blow to your confidence. I mean, you come from an imperial lineage, so if you are so ignorant, wouldn’t you lose all face?”

Jian Wushuang wanted to vomit blood after hearing this. These were the words that drove her crazy the most. Moreover, there were also praises mixed in as well, causing her face to be flushed red from anger.

However, this was not her first time experiencing Li Qiye’s vicious speech. She took a deep breath and coldly glared at him to say: “What else can you do outside of having a sharp tongue?!”

“I’m very capable with regards to many things.” Li Qiye comfortably smiled and slowly said: “However, I’m a little reluctant to kill you right now. Of course, don’t get me wrong, I’m not saying that I like you, it’s just that I don’t really want to throw away such a good sharpening stone. At least right now, it is not that easy to find such a suitable one like you.”

Jian Wushuang was gritting her teeth to the point where you could hear them rattle. At the moment, she was itching to bite his flesh off. Otherwise, it would be difficult to erase this anger in her heart!

How could she not be full of grievances? She was proud and arrogant not only due to her power and great talents, but because she was also very beautiful as well. It could be said that she was known as one of the great beauties of the Stone Medicine World.

Chapter 681: Mantra Arrow

Over the years, countless people praised her beauty with all sorts of compliments. But today, she was only a grindstone to Li Qiye. This was even more rage-inducing than him calling her an ugly girl. At the very least, an ugly girl was still a person; a sharpening stone was hardly anything.

Jian Wushuang couldn't bear it any longer and angrily shouted: "Li! If I don't kill you, I vow to cease being human!"

"Cease being human?" Li Qiye couldn't help but laugh before retorting: "Ugly girl, you weren't a human from the start. Your Jian Clan are all golems, yet you think you are human?"

Jian Wushuang nearly vomited blood as she hatefully responded: "Li! Less wasting words. Make your move. Show me what you have, and I'll handle all of it!"

"If that is the case, then I have no choice but [to pluck the flower](#)." Li Qiye smiled while looking at Jian Wushuang and said: "Ugly girl, listen to my advice. Although your Jian Clan is renowned for its peerless archery, you won't be able to handle my next arrow. Even your ultimate arrow wouldn't be able to stop it. I gave you a chance earlier, and now I'm giving you one more chance. Before I make my move, change your weapon and you might have a small chance of survival."

Pluck the flower is a nice four words idiom that doesn't translate so well. It means not showing any mercy for the fairer sex.

“Such a big tone!” Jian Wushuang couldn’t help but coldly snort. It wasn’t just her, if a third person was present, they would also think that his words were too outrageous.

If he said that his merit law was better than Jian Wushuang’s, then other people would have thought that this was plausible. However, not many people or lineages in the entire Stone Medicine World or even all of the nine worlds would dare to compete with the Jian Clan in terms of the dao of archery.

Immortal Emperor Diyi Jian was called the number one archer for a reason. His archery was indeed peerless across the eons.

“Li, utilize all of your abilities. Today, I will use this bow in my hand to battle it out to the very end!” Jian Wushuang coldly spoke: “I want to see if your arrow is invincible, or if my Jian Clan’s archery is invincible!”

Without a doubt, she was ready to protect her clan’s prestige regarding the dao of archery. If she changed her weapon, then wouldn’t she be backing down before Li Qiye? Wouldn’t that imply that the Jian Clan’s dao of archery was not as good as his?

“Very courageous. It is a shame that you have met me.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “I can’t deny that your Jian Clan’s archery is indeed unbeatable. Unfortunately, the bow in your hand is not the bow of your patriarch. If it was, then you indeed have a chance to compete with me, but the Starshattering Bow won’t do.”

“Give it a try and find out for yourself.” Jian Wushuang coldly

said: “Remember, I will cut off your dog head and slay you!”

“So confident, although a bit arrogant. It is certainly not a bad thing to be this confident.” Li Qiye touched his chin and said: “At this moment, I do kinda like you, ugly girl. It is not too late for you to surrender now. I am missing a follower who likes to bear their fangs like you. No, to be more exact, I am lacking a courageous general with great spirit and pride. Swear loyalty to me and perhaps the seat of the number one general shall be yours in the future.”

Jian Wushuang was speechless from anger at this point. She was arrogant, but this young man ahead was even more arrogant than her, and this was enraging her! He actually wanted to take her in as a follower, but she was the Jian Clan’s golden daughter and not just some random plebeian from the streets!

“Quit your rubbish and unleash your arrow already!” Jian Wushuang coolly shouted.

Li Qiye looked at her and slightly shook his head before speaking: “What a shame. Since you are courting death, then I’ll lend you a hand.” With that, he slowly pulled the string back on his Nine Words True Bow.

“Pluff!” At this time, he unleashed one arrow created from [four different true words](#): Celestial, Soldier, Fighter, and Descend. Until now, Li Qiye had always only used one word from this mantra to form an arrow, but at the moment, he used a combination of four words to form one mantra, so the power of this bow was unfathomable.

“(Celestial) soldiers/fighters descend and arrange yourselves in front of me” is the nine words mantra – lín bīng dǒu zhě jiē zhèn liè qián háng. The four words used here are the first four. This is a rough translation of the nine words; by arranging these words into an acceptable English form with connectors, we can’t really use it with the same usage as the original version, but this will do.

The arrow made out of the four words mantra appeared to be very ordinary and traveled at a very slow speed as if it was shot by a regular archer.

However, Jian Wushuang did not dare to be careless at this time as she was on guard. If she lost to Li Qiye this time, then it would besmirch the reputation of the Jian Clan’s archery.

“Buzzz!” In the blink of an eye, Jian Wushuang also unleashed her own arrow. This time, it was also not a domineering attack and traveled at a slow speed as well.

However, the moment the two arrows met, Jian Wushuang’s arrow suddenly became dazzling and turned into a true immortal that swept through the world and was capable of protecting myriad realms and sealing the nine worlds.

Only now would others discover that Jian Wushuang’s arrow was a defensive one, the most terrifying defensive arrow in this world.

Immortal Guarding The Celestial City! This arrow was the strongest defensive archery technique from the Jian Clan and was

capable of withstanding an attack from an Immortal Emperor's Life Treasure. Its might acted like an impregnable fortress.

Before this "Immortal Guarding The Celestial City" technique, Li Qiye's "Celestial, Soldier, Fighter, and Descend" arrow also erupted and turned into a bloody arrow. This arrow immediately caused the true immortal to shed his divine blood.

"Boom!" The true immortal instantly disappeared along with Li Qiye's bloody arrow.

"Ahh..." Jian Wushuang opened her mouth, wanting to cry out, but words couldn't form. At this time, her dress was slowly stained with blood.

She was shot by Li Qiye's mantra arrow. The arrow didn't only destroy the true immortal, it also killed Jian Wushuang.

At this moment, her life force was slowly dissipating, and she could feel death approaching as her pretty eyes began to slowly close.

"Buzz!" Right at the moment of her death, an immortal light erupted from her body along with an imperial and righteous force as if an Immortal Emperor was coming back to life inside her body.

In the blink of an eye, the immortal light shrouded her body and, with a flash, it instantly carried her away.

Li Qiye didn't give chase after seeing Jian Wushuang being carried away by this encompassing light. He only watched as she disappeared into the horizon.

After she was gone, he rubbed his nose and murmured: "The Jian Clan, they're worthy of their name. They're actually able to bring someone back from near death, what a truly extraordinary act! Although it is a bit worse than rebirth, it is already heaven-defying enough."

Li Qiye was well aware of the power of his arrow; it was capable of killing gods and devils. Very few existences could withstand such power, no matter how tough their body or true fate might be. When struck, death was the only outcome.

However, Jian Wushuang was the golden daughter of the Jian Clan after all, so all of their adoration and love was focused on her. She was their beloved jewel, so the clan used an extremely heaven-defying method to protect her. Once she received a fatal blow, it would instantly save her as well as bring her back to the Jian Clan.

The Jian Clan was still ultimately an imperial lineage with a great heritage, so it was not strange for them to possess such a magnificent ability.

Li Qiye put away his bow and turned around to leave. However, before leaving, he narrowed his eyes and gazed towards a direction in the far horizon. He didn't say anything and only chuckled before leaving.

Outside of the Celestial Peak Mountain in a very secretive spot rested a very ordinary looking carriage. This was a carriage that wouldn't garner attention no matter where it went.

An old woman with an indeterminable age was seated outside in front of the carriage. She gave off a feeble feeling as if her sun was about to set in the west.

At this time, a soft sigh came from inside the carriage. Although it was very brief, it had a particular rhythm that was very pleasant to the ears.

Others would immediately know that the person inside was a girl. Although they couldn't see her appearance, her sigh was already charming enough.

After hearing the sigh, the seemingly sleeping old woman immediately woke up and asked: "Young Miss, how is it going?"

"It is over, he has already left." An answer came from inside. This was a girl's voice, a voice with a very melodious touch that couldn't be described by words. This voice was capable of bewildering people, and it alone was enough to charm them all even when they didn't know what she looked like!

"Who won?" The old woman couldn't help but ask: "The girl from the Jian Clan?"

"No..." The girl's voice from inside the carriage appeared again:

“Li Qiye won. If it wasn’t for the Jian Clan protecting Jian Wushuang with an extremely heaven-defying spell, I’m afraid she would have died already.”

“That brat is quite capable then.” The old woman was a bit surprised and said: “Although the girl from the Jian Clan is arrogant and doesn’t put anyone in her eyes, she is indeed talented. I’m afraid not many from the younger generation would be her match.”

“He’s more than just capable.” The girl from the carriage answered: “I’m afraid this Li Qiye is absolutely terrifying, more terrifying than anyone else.”

“Young Miss, that is too much. He only defeated the Jian girl, nothing more.” The old woman couldn’t help but say. Both of them had astonishing origins that were capable of scaring the rest of the world.

“No.” The girl in the carriage deepened her tone and said: “Although I couldn’t see the battle with my own eyes, I more or less felt it. Li Qiye didn’t actually fight seriously and only used Jian Wushuang to train himself. If he actually fought for real, then it would be very hard to tell...”

Chapter 682: Parting

“Could he actually be stronger than Young Miss?” The old woman said: “Even if he was stronger, he can’t compare to you. No one can in the current younger generation.”

“Not necessarily.” The girl answered: “At least, until now, I still don’t know the limit of his power, so I can’t make any conclusions. In my eyes, Li Qiye himself is shrouded in a mist and is completely unfathomable. Not even I can see through him.”

“How does he compare to Ye Qingcheng of the Stony Peak Kingdom?” The old woman had to ask.

“Compared to Ye Qingcheng?” The girl in the carriage paused for a bit before answering: “I can’t say in detail since I have no way of knowing just how strong Li Qiye is. However, my intuition is telling me that Li Qiye can only be stronger than Ye Qingcheng.”

“That can’t be.” The old woman’s expression visibly changed as she said: “The Stony Peak Kingdom spared nothing when it came to Ye Qingcheng. He is a supreme celestial being who is adored by the heavens. In the Stone Medicine World, outside of Young Miss, only the girl from the Jian Clan can compete with him. How could this nobody Li Qiye compare to Ye Qingcheng?”

Ye Qingcheng was quite renowned in the Stone Medicine World and was considered the number one man, at least among the younger generation. Countless geniuses in this world would dim before his presence; others simply did not dare to compare

themselves to him, and many of them were willing to work under his banner.

“I’m afraid so.” The girl in the carriage continued: “Ye Qingcheng’s power can be estimated and measured, thus it is possible to compare. However, this Li Qiye is unfathomable; I simply can’t gauge just how strong he is. Despite not being able to calculate his true strength, my intuition is telling me that he can only be stronger than Ye Qingcheng.”

The old woman couldn’t help but contemplate in silence for a moment after hearing the girl’s answer. She knew her Young Miss’s abilities very well and had full confidence in her.

The girl in the carriage said: “Let us go, he found us.”

“Even if he makes it here, we aren’t afraid of him.” The old woman’s momentum peaked. At this moment, she no longer resembled an old carriage driver on the verge of death. The aura her body emitted was extremely frightening.

“No, Grandma. We don’t need to fight him.” The girl in the carriage said: “Even though we are not afraid of anyone, we stand to gain nothing from fighting with Li Qiye. Before he makes it here, we should leave first.”

The old woman didn’t say anything else as she sat up straight and controlled the carriage to leave. With the sound of the wheels turning, the carriage traveled very far before disappearing over the horizon without leaving any traces behind.

Li Qiye ran back to the Celestial Peak River and found that there were no cultivators here. Only Yuan Caihe was there, waiting.

She saw him getting down from the carriage and was a little surprised. However, she didn't ask any questions and only revealed a calm smile, saying: "Did Brother Li get any immortal sulfur?"

"What about you?" Li Qiye didn't answer and only smiled back.

Yuan Caihe nodded her head and replied: "I obtained two pieces of very old immortal sulfur. This will be enough to use for one batch."

"Nothing can be better. Let us go." Li Qiye smiled and gently nodded.

Yuan Caihe couldn't help but take a look around before saying: "I don't know where Tie Yi had run off to. Are we not waiting for him?"

"He doesn't need us waiting for him." Li Qiye shook his head and said: "If he really wants to leave with us, then he would have shown himself already. I'm afraid he does not wish to go with us, he must have gone ahead already."

Yuan Caihe was a clever person, so she thought about it for a second before revealing a faint and natural smile. She didn't say anything else and sat inside Li Qiye's carriage.

With a creaking sound, the Imperial Draco-Bull pulled the carriage far away — not too fast, not too slow. Li Qiye sat inside with his eyes closed; he didn't make any conversation.

Yuan Caihe seemed to be enjoying this silence as well since she didn't say anything either.

Although the bull was going neither fast nor slow, they quickly left the Celestial Peak Mountain. The moment they left the area, Li Qiye immediately opened his eyes and asked with a light smile while looking at Yuan Caihe: “Do you have to go back to the Serene Garden?”

She gently nodded her head and said: “Yes, I plan to go into isolated cultivation after I return since I need to refine a batch of medicines that will take some time. Where does Brother Li want to go? Maybe if you have time, you can come visit my Serene Garden?”

There was an indescribable sense of closeness that she felt towards Li Qiye. Although they only became acquainted recently, in her heart, it felt like they had known each other for a very long time, like old friends.

“I'm afraid I can't go to your Serene Garden right now since I have to take a trip to the Alpine Mountain.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “After the Alpine Mountain, I have to go to the alchemy conference at the Alchemy Kingdom as well.”

“Ah, are you going there to celebrate Allpine Treefather’s birthday?” Yuan Caihe asked.

“Yes, I have made plans to meet with someone at the Allpine Mountain. If it wasn’t for this previous arranged, I would have really liked to come take a look at your Serene Garden since it is famed for its unrivaled plant and medicine cultivation.” Li Qiye answered.

His words were not flattery since this was indeed the truth. Many spirit medicines grew inside the Serene Garden that would cause people to salivate. Countless great characters had wanted to take a look but couldn’t.

“It still wouldn’t be too late to visit later.” Yuan Caihe revealed a calming smile and said: “The Allpine Mountain is definitely worth a trip. It is protected by the Allpine Treefather and also contains great spirit medicines everywhere. It is quite famous for having a lot of great plants.”

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile while looking at Yuan Caihe. He gently brushed the hair on her shoulders back. It seemed that they had an indescribable harmony.

“We’ll meet again later.” Eventually, he smiled and bid his farewell. Yuan Caihe left the carriage and waved at him as they went their separate ways.

Afterward, Li Qiye sat in the carriage once again with his eyes closed. He commanded the bull: “To the Allpine Mountain!”

There was no need for Li Qiye to drive since the bull could pull the carriage towards the Alpine Mountain.

The Alpine Mountain was a very general indicator. Some said that the mountain was the location where the Alpine Forefather was born and grew up. Some said that the Alpine Mountain was referring to the Alpine Mountain's vein.

In fact, the truth was not far off from this. The mountain range and the entire vein were all territories that belonged to the treefather. Although the treefather didn't establish a sect at this location, his followers and disciples were just as strong as any great power.

The Alpine Mountain was also called the Alpine Grand Vein, one of the eight great veins in the Stone Medicine World; it was on the same level as the Elegant Azure Grand Vein. It stretched far across the Alchemy Realm like a sleeping dragon.

It was grand and magnificent with incredible peaks and mountains everywhere. There were many spirit deers walking around, golden birds flying above, and flood dragons below the marshes...

Meanwhile, spirit medicines were in abundance here. As one of the eight grand veins, plenty of spirit energy had accumulated from millions of miles. The energy was as vast as an ocean.

Moreover, under the protection of the Alpine Treefather, the

plants here were able to thrive and flourish, thus this land was famous for having a lot of plants.

Of course, one had to talk about the treefather when the topic of the Allpine Mountain was ever brought up in this world. The Giant Bamboo Tree and the Allpine Treefather were referred to as the two great Demon Forefathers. Although the Allpine Treefather was much younger than the ancient Giant Bamboo tree, his fame was much more widespread.

In fact, this was quite understandable because, for millions of years now, the Giant Bamboo tree had never taken shape. It had always silently stood there, so the world had forgotten about its existence or had just gotten used to it.

The Allpine Treefather was completely different. He had gained intelligence from the dao and also passed down his dao heritage. This caused his reputation to spread along with countless students. For several hundred thousand years now, living beings that were born at this location had heard the treefather preach the dao many times. Some of them were Demon Monarchs. Of course, the beasts and vegetation that had yet to reach the dao listened as well.

During this period, many golems traveled for countless miles just to beseech the treefather for a chance to listen to him preach the dao. Because of this, although the treefather had not left the Allpine Mountain's territory for a very long time now, he had students everywhere in the world, across the three grand realms. Moreover, some of his students even became Virtuous Paragons.

Thus, it was easy to imagine the treefather's great influence. As

for his cultivation, no outsiders were privy to this. Some said that the treefather could be bestowed the Godking title. Some also said that outside of Immortal Emperors, no one else could compete with the treefather.

Regardless of how great his cultivation was, as a Demon Forefather that had lived for 500,000 years, this was more than enough to earn everyone's respect. Therefore, in the entire Stone Medicine World, numerous great powers and imperial lineages and even a monster like the Alchemy Kingdom were very respectful to the Allpine Treefather.

His 500,000th birthday was a huge event for the entire Stone Medicine World. All the great powers and imperial lineages, as well as renowned cultivators from all over the place, quickly traveled great lengths to give him their best wishes.

Even those from far away places like the Beast Realm and the Stone Realm began their departure early in order to make it on time for the celebration. Some had even left as early as one year ago.

His great birthday celebration caused the entire territory that spanned for millions of miles to become rowdy since many lineages were on their way.

In just a moment, the normally quiet Allpine Mountain became very busy and was overcrowded with newly arriving guests. The usually deserted valleys now contained many guests from far away.

Chapter 683: Alpine Mountain

Fortunately, the Alpine Mountain was vast with countless mountains and valleys. Even though guests came from all over the world, there were still plenty of places for them to stay.

Although there was still some time before the treefather's birthday, the place was already packed with people, and more arrived on a daily basis.

Even the low-key imperial family of the Alchemy Kingdom, the reclusive Jianlong Clan, and the Beastmaster Citadel that never cared for mundane matters... All of these behemoths sent experts to come congratulate the treefather.

From this, one could see the treefather's frightening position in the Stone Medicine World.

“Squeakk—” A carriage slowly approached a small town below the Alpine Mountain. Li Qiye was still resting inside the carriage as if he was sleeping. He immersed himself in the carriage's rhythm. The bull took its time dragging the carriage towards the mountain.

This little town was normally deserted, but now, it was bustling with cultivators staying here. Some of them ran out of the mountain for a breath of fresh air while others were here to trade items.

Li Qiye turned a deaf ear to the commodious town and continued

to stay in the carriage as it kept on moving towards the mountain base.

In fact, at this time, new guests filled the mountain base like carps jumping in a river. With this being the case, no one noticed Li Qiye mixing in with the crowd.

Once the carriage finally entered the mountain, Li Qiye immediately opened his eyes to look at the sight before him.

One could only see a verdant scenery with rolling hills and peaks that soared to the sky. There were also straight waterfalls that were three thousand feet high. There were also ancient pines that resembled horned dragons growing on the precipices...

No matter who they might be, they would be praising the majestic scenery before them. This place was different from other locations with its countless clusters of green lights floating in the sky. They were around the size of needles and appeared to be extremely lifelike. Because of these little glimmers of green light, it made the entire Allpine Mountain appear even more magical and exceptionally beautiful.

At this time, Li Qiye's brows furrowed. In this split second, it was as if his eyes were able to see through the entire mountain range. His gaze stretched across everything and fell upon an old pine tree; it was not a big pine tree, but it was definitely extremely ancient.

After a while, Li Qiye withdrew his gaze and murmured: "Allpine Mountain, Allpine Treefather... A bit interesting... What a shame

that after such a long time, he still isn't able to leave the Allpine Mountain."

The treefather's fame had spread across the entire world, but for hundreds of thousands of years, he had never left the Allpine Mountain. Although he could appear anywhere in the millions of miles of the mountain range, he couldn't actually leave it.

As for the reason why, there had been many different theories. The most plausible and widely accepted one was that before the treefather had gained intelligence from the dao, his root was entrenched in the deepest parts of the Allpine Grand Vein and had fused together with the vein.

Because his root and the grand vein had become one, this allowed for him to appear anywhere inside the Allpine Mountain, but he wouldn't be able to take a single step outside.

"Squeak..." At this time, the journey continued with the bull dragging the carriage along while Li Qiye kept his eyes shut inside.

However, before they could reach the gate of the mountain, they were stopped by someone.

"You're still not dead..." A cold, hateful voice appeared. Some bloodlust was even present.

After hearing this cold voice, Li Qiye opened his eyes and saw the Dragon Princess with some disciples blocking his path.

At this point, she glared at him with a chilling gaze and flashed her murderous intent as if she wanted nothing more than to kill him at this moment.

The princess's deep hatred towards Li Qiye was understandable. Despite her noble birth and high status, she was still slapped by this nobody Li Qiye before the eyes of others — nothing could be more humiliating than this.

If Jian Wushuang didn't stop her at that time, then she would have killed him already. Since Jian Wushuang wanted his insignificant life, the Dragon Princess thought that he wouldn't be able to leave the Celestial Peak Mountain alive. Who would have thought that she would be able to see him here fine and well at this place!

She was quite famous in the Alchemy Realm. As a princess and an excellent disciple with a great cultivation from the Radiant-Sea Sect, it could be said that she stood out among others of the younger generation.

And now, this very princess was blocking the path of a nobody with a crew, so this attracted a lot of attention from the guests. Many of them were curious about how this unknown human had offended her. Some even began to quietly discuss with others.

As for Li Qiye, he only blinked an eye and slowly said: "I'm quite tough. The king of hell and all the little devils couldn't take my life, so it shouldn't be strange that I'm still alive now, right?"

“The king of hell and all the little devils can’t take your life?!” The princess snorted, exuding a sharp killing intent as she coldly said: “Then today, this princess will take your dog life!”

Li Qiye was too lazy to take another glimpse of her. He leisurely sat in his carriage and said: “With just you and your insignificant skills? Stand side. Today, I am here to celebrate and my mood is especially good, so I’ll spare your life for now. Of course, if you really want to die, then I can help you. Alas, painting the earth red with blood is bad luck at a birthday celebration.”

These words enraged the princess. She had already been slapped by him in front of everyone back at the Celestial Peak River and now he dared to utter these boisterous words? How could this not drive her mad?

Many guests even halted their steps after hearing Li Qiye’s raving and couldn’t help but click their tongues while glancing at each other. They wondered what the origin of this junior could possibly be for him to say these blustering words. He truly didn’t know life from death.

“Junior, don’t be arrogant!” An expert by the princess’s side cried out. He wanted to rush forward to decapitate Li Qiye.

However, the princess stopped him and took a step forward herself. With a chilling visage like a vicious, unsheathed sword, she said: “I want to personally kill this little animal. I want to peel his skin and shred his tendons, to shed and drink his blood!” She

gnashed her teeth while speaking these words. Nothing else could appease her anger besides doing so!

As for Li Qiye, he continued to keep his eyes closed and rested as if he didn't hear what she had said.

“Little animal, hand your life over!” The Dragon Princess cried out as her vitality erupted all the way to the sky like a flood dragon. Such powerful vitality was enough to illustrate her amazing strength.

“Worthy of being a dynasty's princess and an excellent disciple of the Radiant-Sea Sect.” Even a cultivator from the previous generation had to voice his praise after seeing her powerful blood energy.

“Fellow Daoists, please take it easy.” The moment the princess took action, a great character from the Allpine Mountain stepped out and told them to stop.

“Moo!” However, in this split second, a moo came about, followed by a popping sound. The princess was kicked flying by a hoof, shooting all the way to the sky and eventually disappearing into the horizon.

Her fate was unknown, one could only see blood dripping down from the sky. She didn't even have the chance to scream.

The great character from the mountain was a Demon Monarch,

but before he could finish his words, the princess had been blown away and disappeared, causing him to swallow his words.

Everyone stood there looking silly. In the beginning, all eyes were on Li Qiye and the Dragon Princess. They began to guess his background since he was extremely arrogant, not to mention that they all thought that he was tired of living for opposing the Dragon Princess.

None of them looked at the Imperial Draco-Bull pulling the carriage. In their view, it was not worthy of attention. It was just a regular common buffalo, so what was there to look at?

They didn't expect that this ordinary looking buffalo could casually kick the princess flying with just one hoof.

Li Qiye opened his eyes at this time and calmly spoke: "Excuse me, you came a bit late. I was going to show mercy, but unfortunately, my divine bull accidentally kicked the girl flying."

The Demon Monarch from the Alpine Mountain was completely speechless. What else could he say now? The person had been kicked away already, so it was too late for him to resolve this conflict.

"Little animal, we'll cut you into little pieces!" At this time, the experts who were with the princess regained their sanity and shouted at Li Qiye.

The Demon Monarch quickly stopped them and said: “Fellow Daoists, everyone here are guests of the Allpine Mountain. I hope that everyone can change feuds into friendships and get along with each other. If you all are hell-bent on seeking revenge, then wait until after the celebration. Besides, you all should be focusing on saving the Dragon Princess, don’t let a less important matter delay saving her life.”

Chapter 684: Birthday Celebration

The many experts who were together with the princess could only glare hatefully at Li Qiye after hearing the Demon Monarch.

This place was the Allpine Mountain and everyone was here to celebrate the treefather's birthday. This was the Stone Medicine World, so everyone would show the treefather some consideration. If they caused trouble at the treefather's birthday, then it would be too insensible.

Besides, the Dragon Princess had been kicked away and her fate was unknown. If they didn't quickly save her, then maybe she would die for real.

The newly arrived guests noticed that the excitement was over, so they went back up the mountain. In fact, they already knew that nothing too crazy would happen here, especially at this key moment since no one wanted to offend the treefather.

"Where might Dao Friend be from?" When everyone left, the Demon Monarch from the Allpine Mountain asked Li Qiye.

In front of the mountain pass were many Allpine disciples responsible for greeting the new guests from the sects all over the world. Of course, this was an amazing opportunity to prevent those with malicious intent from mingling inside.

The moment the Demon Monarch asked Li Qiye, he couldn't help but judge him. No matter how he looked at it, Li Qiye appeared

very ordinary. However, his buffalo kicked the princess flying, so this couldn't be an ordinary beast. Thus, the monarch found it very strange. Just what was the background of this youth who dared to become enemies with the princess?

The monarch was very confident that he would be able to recognize anyone who was famous in the Stone Medicine World, but the youth before him was a complete mystery.

“From very far away.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “I'm here to meet up with a friend and to celebrate the treefather's birthday.”

“Welcome, welcome.” The Allpine Mountain's Demon Monarch quickly said: “It is an honor to have Dao Friend here at our Treefather's grand celebration.” He made a polite comment before asking: “Who might your friend be? Let us know so we can arrange a suitable dwelling.”

With so many guests coming to the mountain, there were different levels of reception and areas for them to stay. For example, esteemed guests such as the Alchemy Kingdom's imperial family would enjoy the highest level of treatment.

“There she is.” Li Qiye raised his chin slightly towards the front with a smile.

At this time, Madam Zi Yan had arrived from the mountain and heaved a sigh of relief after seeing Li Qiye. She had heard that someone was causing trouble outside of the mountain; she immediately knew who it was, thus she came running.

The Demon Monarch quickly cupped his fist and said: “Ah, so you are a friend of Her Majesty Zi Yan, please excuse us for our lack of reception.”

“Brother Sang is too cordial. This person is our Young Noble Li.” Madam Zi Yan hurriedly responded: “Brother Sang is very busy, so please don’t mind us.”

This Alpine Mountain Demon Monarch was smart, so he looked at Li Qiye then back at Madam Zi Yan and took his leave after a few more polite sentences.

“Have you been well on your journey?” The madam looked at Li Qiye then the carriage with the bull for a bit. She couldn’t help but wonder where he got it from.

Li Qiye gently tapped the spot next to him without saying anything else. The madam quickly got on and sat there, then the bull pulled the carriage up the mountain.

“What a spiritual divine bull.” The madam couldn’t help but voice her praise after looking at the Imperial Draco-Bull. Although she couldn’t see through it, she was still an enlightened Demon King, so her sight was far better than that of ordinary people.

At this time, Li Qiye asked in a relaxed manner with his eyes resting: “I have a divine chariot now, so how about you become the driver?”

The madam was slightly taken aback after hearing this because this was not the first time this proposition came up.

She was a Demon King in charge of the entire Giant Bamboo Country, but now, Li Qiye was asking her to be a driver. If a third person were to hear this, then they would think that Li Qiye was insane and far too arrogant.

However, these resoundingly ignorant words came so naturally from Li Qiye. He uttered them with his eyes closed as if it was not a big deal to him.

In fact, this was the truth. In the past, a Demon King of this level would not be qualified to drive his carriage since all of his past drivers were people he highly valued.

The madam regained her composure and asked softly in a calm and gentle manner: “If I become your driver, how will you arrange the future of the Giant Bamboo Country?”

He only smiled and didn’t say or ask anything.

At this time, the madam felt that something was different, but she couldn’t tell what it was. She quietly said: “Is Young Noble unhappy?”

This was hard for outsiders to imagine. She was the ruler of a country, so how could she act so gentle towards an ordinary

looking brat?

“No, I can understand.” Li Qiye gently shook his head and said: “A great Demon King and a driver — there is too big of a gap between these two positions. People would know which to choose between the two — nothing is strange about this.”

“I...” The madam opened her mouth, wanting to say something. In fact, she was indeed hesitant since the proposition was a bit too crazy.

“Don’t worry, I will give you a chance.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “You can think about it. I am very patient when it comes to you.”

This type of patience was very rare for Li Qiye; it spoke plenty of how much he valued Madam Zi Yan. Apart from her being from the Giant Bamboo Country, it was also because of her personality.

She gently sighed while Li Qiye maintained the quiet atmosphere as if the matters of this world had nothing to do with him.

“Did Young Noble and the Dragon Princess have a fight?” The madam gently asked while looking at Li Qiye.

Li Qiye didn’t bat an eye as he nonchalantly replied: “It was nothing, not worth mentioning.”

The madam didn’t say anything else. This wasn’t her first time seeing Li Qiye’s overbearing and arrogant manner, so what could

she say if he didn't even care for the Radiant-Sea Sect?

She quietly sat beside him and pointed the way for the bull to enter the Alpine Mountain.

She enjoyed a very high-level reception at this place and had her own valley. Such treatment was comparable to that of an imperial lineage; other great powers would not have this privilege.

“Not a bad place.” After entering the valley, Li Qiye took a look around and nodded approvingly.

The madam wryly smiled and said: “This is due to the blessing of our Divine Guardian. With my reputation alone, I would not be able to claim such a valley.”

This was indeed the case. Although the Giant Bamboo Country was considered a great power, there were other countries much more powerful than it. There were many guests from all over the world who came for the treefather's birthday, so normally only imperial lineages could have their own valley.

However, the Giant Bamboo Tree was also a Demon Forefather just like the Alpine Treefather and was even more ancient, so the madam enjoyed the highest level of accommodations.

Li Qiye smiled and didn't say anything else. He slightly tapped the bull then entered the house. Meanwhile, the bull pulled on the carriage and stopped in a corner where it lied down near a water

source just like a coiling dragon.

The madam prepared dinner for Li Qiye and also washed his face. She was busying herself as if she was his maid.

Such a matter should be left to the servants, but the madam chose to do it personally. This would have been an unimaginable sight to outsiders. She was very thoughtful and gentle as she took great care of Li Qiye.

This made Li Qiye comfortably sigh, prompting the madam to softly ask: “Is something on Young Noble’s mind?”

“No.” Li Qiye slightly shook his head and replied: “Just recalling something. It is very hard to find a suitable candidate these days.”

Of course, she didn’t know that Li Qiye was talking about her progenitor. It could be said that she was someone who Li Qiye thought of very highly, someone who had never disappointed him before.

There was still some time before the treefather’s birthday, so Li Qiye stayed in the valley without leaving while the madam served him as if he was a young master.

Of course, although he didn’t leave the house, this did not mean that he didn’t do anything. He took a stroll around the valley every day over and over again. It could even be said that his steps filled every corner of this valley.

During his strolls, sometimes he would gaze towards the far distance or listen to the earth as if he was surveying something.

Although Li Qiye's actions seemed strange, the madam knew that Li Qiye had something he wanted to do, so she chose not to ask. However, she was quite anxious since she knew of Li Qiye's lawlessness and propensity to do anything he wished. She was afraid that he would cause some trouble at the Allpine Mountain.

On this day, the madam was not in the valley while Li Qiye was lying on a hill to bask in the sun. Although he had a lazy appearance, no one knew that he was calculating something over and over again in his mind.

Some time later, Li Qiye suddenly stood up and heavily stamped the ground. With a boom, part of the ground collapsed.

"No, no, no..." At this time, a figure immediately climbed out of the ground and quickly begged for mercy: "Young Noble, please no. We're on the same side."

Li Qiye laid back in his armchair and finally opened his eyes in a lazy manner while looking at the figure crawling up from the ground, saying: "On the same side? Since when?"

Chapter 685: Tie Yi's Affair

“Ah...” The figure crawling up from the ground hurriedly replied: “If Young Noble desires, I would answer your call anywhere and anytime, so of course we are on the same side.”

This figure was Old Demon Tie Yi from the Celestial Peak Mountain. At this time, he was cheerfully smiling while scratching his head with his ant claw. However, while he was laughing, he was occasionally taking glances at the Imperial Draco-Bull relaxing to the side.

“Really? You will answer my call?” Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and said: “You are not here to steal my bull?”

“Moo!” The bull also lifted its head and let out a cry at Tie Yi. This gesture did scare him quite a bit.

“No, no, no. Young Noble, this is a misunderstanding.” Tie Yi hastily waved his hands and explained: “Even if I was a thousand times more courageous, no, ten thousand times more courageous, I wouldn’t dare to even have such a thought. Moreover, your divine bull is unparalleled and unique in all of eternity. Outside of Young Noble, no one else deserves such a divine bull...”

Tie Yi didn’t only suck up to Li Qiye, he even buttered up the bull as well. His flattery left the bull satisfied and refreshed, so it laid back down in a comfortable posture.

Li Qiye was too lazy to glance at Tie Yi and respond to his

incessant flattery, so he said: “I have seen many sycophants, but not many of them were at the same level as you. To be able to make a bull this happy, this is a whole new level of art.”

The old demon only cheerfully laughed after hearing Li Qiye and wasn't embarrassed in the slightest.

Li Qiye looked at the demon and asked: “You didn't stay at the Celestial Peak Mountain? Why are you here at the Allpine Mountain?”

“I am here to...” Tie Yi opened his mouth to say something but was quickly interrupted by Li Qiye with a wave of his sleeve. Li Qiye shook his head and said: “If you are about to say that you are here to work for me, then forget it. If you lie so much, you better watch it or else I'll squeeze your true form out before crushing it.”

“Ah...” Tie Yi hurriedly responded: “Young Noble is so funny, too funny. I only came here to see the world as well as the grand celebration of the treefather where everyone comes together. This is quite a rare occasion, so I must broaden my horizons. Of course, if Young Noble ever needs my assistance, then I'll be more than happy to help.”

Li Qiye glanced at him and slowly asked: “You want to see the world by sneaking underground?”

“Well...” Tie Yi forced out a chuckle and replied: “About that... This little demon is only an insignificant character, so I'm afraid they won't let me in at the front door. Moreover, the Allpine

Treefather is merciful and benevolent, so he won't mind a little guy like me."

"Is that so?" Li Qiye stroked his chin for a bit while looking at Tie Yi, causing Tie Yi to be frightened out of his mind. His intuition told him that something bad was going to happen.

"If Young Noble has nothing else, then this little, little demon will excuse myself as I don't want to bother your quiet time." The jumpy old demon quickly told Li Qiye.

"No rush, no rush, since you took a lot of time to come here, how about we have a nice chat?" Li Qiye leisurely suggested.

When he heard Li Qiye talk about "a nice chat", the old demon knew that something bad was going to happen for sure. His mind was jumping from fear as he quickly replied: "Young Noble, this little demon doesn't know anything, so I won't be able to hold a conversation with you..." He spoke as he retreated backward.

"I won't stop you if you want to leave, but I might accidentally spill news about someone wanting to dig out the main root. That wouldn't be good, would it?" Li Qiye leisurely spoke again.

"No, no, no..." Tie Yi was horrified by these words and he hurriedly responded: "Ahh... Young Noble, you are definitely misunderstanding something. I am happy to contribute to your cause any time and anywhere. Just say the words and I'll even head into a sea of fire without hesitation."

“Into a sea of fire?” Li Qiye’s eyes narrowed as he burst out in laughter and said: “This fellow daoist, your words are too much. There is no need for you to run into a sea of fire, how could I ask such a thing from you?”

Tie Yi was stricken with fear after seeing Li Qiye’s expression. He made a decision and said: “Young Noble, please spare me. Just tell me what you want me to do directly.”

“So refreshingly straightforward.” Li Qiye clapped his hands and said: “I am a person without a lot of merits, but I do appreciate straightforward people like you. It is quite a rare sight these days, ah.”

At this time, Tie Yi had resigned to his fate as he drooped his head while saying: “What does Young Noble want me to do?”

“You said that iron ants like you love to dig holes? Correct. To be more exact, iron ants are best at digging and hiding underground.” Li Qiye leisurely said.

“What does Young Noble want me to dig out?” Tie Yi couldn’t help but shudder. Very quickly, he thought about something and frighteningly exclaimed with a shocked expression: “Young Noble, you won’t make me go dig at that location, right?!”

“What location?” Li Qiye played the fool and asked: “Is there a particularly valuable location in this place?”

Tie Yi immediately shut his mouth and knew that he was very unlucky this time. If he knew this was going to happen, he wouldn't have messed with Li Qiye. This was the same as him digging a grave for himself and jumping down to finish the job.

At this time, Li Qiye looked at him with squinted eyes before revealing a lazy smirk as he said: "Fellow Daoist Tie Yi, how about this, go to that location underground."

"No, absolutely not." At this time, Tie Yi shook his head at a rapid pace and hurriedly answered: "Young Noble, please don't misunderstand, I don't know of any locations underground."

Li Qiye sat back in his armchair and gently waved his sleeve towards Tie Yi, saying: "Okay, don't pretend anymore, everyone here knows what is going on. You can put on your pitiful and weak act in front of others, and they might believe you, but I am very aware of what you can do. If it wasn't out of consideration for your non-malicious intentions, I would have already forced your true body out back at the Celestial Peak Mountain."

Tie Yi wryly smiled but didn't say anything else at this time.

"I was going to take a look at that location underground." Li Qiye semi-laid down and slowly spoke: "However, with you here, nothing could be better; I won't have to waste too much effort. Moreover, you have been there before, so the trip will be very familiar to you. No one would have an easier time getting there than you."

“Young Noble, you think too highly of me.” Tie Yi gave a mirthless smile and said: “This is the territory of the Allpine Treefather. As long as he wants to know, nothing would be able to elude him within the span of a million miles in this land.”

At this time, Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and asked: “But aren’t you still doing it?”

Tie Yi took a deep breath and replied: “Young Noble, I won’t hide it from you. A lowly character like me sneaking in... Even if the Treefather found out, he wouldn’t take the time to care about me. However, if Young Noble wants me to dig at that location, he will certainly kill me. I don’t dare to dig there since I only want to sense something underground, that’s all.”

Here, he paused for a bit before continuing: “Let’s take a step back and assume that the treefather found out, he probably won’t care since I am only doing so out of curiosity. If Young Noble knows about that location underground, then you definitely know that that place is not to be disturbed, or else the treefather will unleash his fury onto us! In the Stone Medicine World, how many people can withstand his wrath? Not to mention, we are doing it at the Allpine Mountain!”

“I know, I’m not telling you to dig all the way inside. I just want you to get close for a good look, then you can come back and report to me.” Li Qiye lightly added: “I trust your top-notch digging skills. As for your ability to escape... There is no room for critique.”

“This...” Tie Yi couldn’t help but hesitate after hearing Li Qiye.

Li Qiye glanced at him then dismissively said: “I will not say more about other matters. You came from the capital of the Giant Bamboo Country all the way to the Celestial Peak Mountain, and now you are here at the Alpine Mountain, do I need to say more?”

Tie Yi was slightly stunned by this sentence while Li Qiye continued on: “Even though you might not be following me, do you think this is only a coincidence?”

Tie Yi sighed and smiled wryly: “Do I have any other choice?”

Li Qiye laid back in his chair and leisurely said: “Yes, unless you don’t want to beg me. I am a person who could be said to not lack anything. Even if I need something, as long as I am willing, I can immediately obtain it... If you want to beg me, then you need to at least take out an item capable of tempting me. If you can’t, then that is fine too as long as you can show some sincerity and work for me and achieve great merits. As long as I am willing, many people in this world would be eager to answer my call. Do you think that I am giving you this chance, or is it something that you have to earn?” Having said this, Li Qiye glanced at the demon.

Tie Yi was stunned after hearing this. He didn’t think that Li Qiye knew everything so well since he was confident that his disguise was exceptional. However, it was still seen through by Li Qiye.

After a while, he took a deep breath and looked at Li Qiye to say: “So to speak, Young Noble can solve my problem?”

“The wounds have been there for too long, so this is indeed tricky.” Li Qiye smiled and paused for a bit before continuing: “However, that is only for other people — it is nothing to me. Of course, you and I don’t really know each other, and we also aren’t friends, so if you want me to do something, shouldn’t you show some sincerity first?”

Here, Li Qiye shrugged and said: “Of course, if you don’t want to, then I won’t force you. Going to that location underground isn’t an issue for me. Of course, if someone was willing to work for me, then I would be happy to oblige.”

“No, no problem.” At this time, Tie Yi made a decision and quickly said: “Your business is my business. This little demon is willing to work for Young Noble and solve your issues. Just say the word, this little demon is waiting for your command at any time.”

Chapter 686: Madam Zi Yan's Hesitation

“I like straightforward people.” Li Qiye said with a smile: “Go. I hope that you can bring me good news. Do not disappoint me.”

Tie Yi took a deep breath and cupped his hands before Li Qiye to say: “Rest assured, Young Noble, wait for this little demon’s good news.”

Having said that, he drilled into the ground and instantly disappeared.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t say anything else. He continued to lay on his chair as if nothing had happened.

In the afternoon, Madam Zi Yan came back and saw the hole in the ground. She was slightly surprised and asked: “This is...?”

“It’s nothing, just a mouse digging a hole, there is no need to be alarmed.” Replied Li Qiye with a grin.

Although Li Qiye said that, the madam was still looking at the hole. She was quite worried that the thing she feared would happen.

Li Qiye saw through her and said with a smile: “Don’t worry, no matter what happens, we will be fine. Moreover, we are here for the birthday celebration, not to cause trouble, wouldn’t you say?”

The madam could only smile back; she didn't continue to pry about this matter. She sat down behind him and gently massaged his shoulders.

Only Li Qiye would enjoy such treatment. He closed his eyes to rest and enjoyed the gentle touches from the madam.

After a while, he slowly opened his eyes to look at the madam's beauty that was without any trace of mundane vulgarity and revealed a faint smile to say: "I like people like you. As soft as water, meticulous and patient..."

The madam only charmingly smiled in response. Of course, she was not misunderstanding his intentions. She knew full well that Li Qiye was not referring to the kind of affection between a man and a woman.

"I believe in Young Noble. With your abilities, you will surely have a grand future." The madam continued to gently rub his shoulders while softly speaking: "But I don't know anything about your origin."

She was very confident in him becoming a renowned Alchemy Emperor in the Stone Medicine World in the future — there was no questioning this. However, she had her own concerns, especially about his origin.

Of course, she was fully aware that Li Qiye didn't want anything from her, especially not her beauty or the Giant Bamboo Country; he was already able to obtain them.

“Zi Yan, you are looking at this the wrong way.” Li Qiye gently shook his head and said: “I don’t care for an achievement like becoming an Alchemy Emperor. As for your concern, my origin is really not important either. You only need to know one thing: by following me, you are following the future Immortal Emperor, no, much more than an emperor. Follow me and you will be following the existence at the apex in the future...”

“When that day comes, the gods will tremble as all the races in the nine worlds bow their heads before us. Godkings, among my followers, would only be qualified to have the lowest positions. If True Immortals are still in this world, they would also have to be under my banner. If True Dragons are still here, then they would have to coil themselves respectfully before our presence! I am the sole ruler above the high heavens, and among the endless stretches of time, I alone am eternal!”

These words were uttered as if he was whispering to a lover, as if it was mere mumbling in one’s sleep. These dream-like words were uttered so lightly by Li Qiye.

Above Immortal Emperors? Causing the gods to tremble and True Immortals to prostrate as well as True Dragons?! These words were truly surreal, and only an ignorant or crazy person would say such things.

However, the madam listened very carefully to his dream-like words while gently massaging Li Qiye’s shoulders.

She had heard these words before, in the building at the outskirts of the capital. However, there was a completely different feeling to them this time. At that time, she had doubts in her mind, but now, a part of her heart was shaken by these words.

Also at this time, Li Qiye opened his eyes and reached out with his right hand to gently touch Madam Zi Yan's delicate and beautiful chin, then he caressed her pretty face.

This kind of action from someone else would perhaps be viewed as disrespectful and vulgar, but Li Qiye's touch was without any sexual thoughts. It was natural and calm without the slightest intention of taking advantage of her.

"Zi Yan, your heart is swaying nonstop as if you are a lost baby fawn." Li Qiye smiled while touching her cheek.

The madam's mind returned, but she was still slightly dazed. Meanwhile, Li Qiye withdrew his hand and slowly closed his eyes again to say: "It's nothing surprising since not too many things can hide from my eyes. It is not difficult for me to see through your thoughts."

The madam sighed and said: "Young Noble, this, to me, is a huge life decision."

"I know." Li Qiye smiled and said: "Call me Young Master, I like it more this way since it has a unique flavor."

If someone else said this, it would sound a bit twisted. However, when it came out so nonchalantly from Li Qiye, it became a bit interesting as if this was how it should be.

“Young Master...” The madam calmed down and softly whispered. She couldn’t say no to his request; it was as if she was at his beck and call.

Li Qiye comfortably closed his eyes while listening to the moving, gentle call. To him, this was a type of pleasure with a long lasting aftertaste.

After a good while of enjoying Madam Zi Yan’s gentleness, Li Qiye slowly spoke: “I can understand your hesitation and can tell you a little bit about my origin. I didn’t come from the Stone Medicine World, I’m from the Mortal Emperor World.”

Li Qiye indeed liked Madam Zi Yan a lot and held her in high esteem. He seldom had such patience. If it was some other girl, he would be too lazy to say so much. It was quite rare for him to have so much patience for her.

The madam was surprised to hear this. She carefully thought about it and felt that it was not strange. Li Qiye was a dragon among men; such a grand character couldn’t be unknown, so being from another world was the most reasonable explanation.

She couldn’t help but say after some contemplation: “However, the nine worlds are not connected at the moment...”

Li Qiye interrupted her and said: “Even though the pathways have collapsed, it would not be difficult for me if I wanted to travel through the nine worlds.”

The madam trusted these words since it came from Li Qiye despite how impossible they might sound. Nevertheless, she was still frozen from this overwhelming information.

Li Qiye opened his eyes to look at her beautiful face and said: “So? Too caught up in your thoughts?”

The madam composed herself as her face blushed. While still gently rubbing Li Qiye’s shoulders, she spoke her mind: “What kind of master is capable of training a [deity](#) like Young Master?”

Deity here is just an expression, kind of like Deity Jikong Wudi back in the Mortal Emperor World.

“You are mistaken, no one in this world can be my master.” Li Qiye laughed and said: “Moreover, I am not a deity, but a brute. In the Mortal Emperor World, many people called me Fiercest, and I really like such a title.”

After hearing this, the madam couldn’t help but smile and said: “So Young Master was also living quite well in the Mortal Emperor World.” These words were so gentle that it would cause people’s hearts to thump.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but smile: “So, are you tempted? Of course, if you are willing to follow me, the Giant Bamboo Country will still be fine. I trust that you can find a good ruler. Plus, it is a land of

peace, there is no need to compete against the rest of the world. With the Giant Bamboo as its protector, it will stand strong for tens of millions of years.”

The madam elegantly chuckled without losing her gentle demeanor and said: “Young Master is the most domineering and arrogant person I have ever seen. Sometimes, I wonder where your confidence comes from?” The madam didn’t hide her thoughts and told Li Qiye the truth.

Li Qiye only smiled and didn’t answer. The madam continued to service him and, inadvertently, they slowly had an implicit understanding as the madam undertook her role.

“How was your trip outside today?” Asked Li Qiye as he cheerfully enjoyed the tender touches from the madam.

She softly replied: “There are a few great powers in the Alchemy Realm who want to form an alliance with our Giant Bamboo Country. Their sect masters and royal lords wanted to find out our goals.”

“Not surprising.” Li Qiye chuckled and said: “The world of cultivation is where the strong reign over the weak. Once you are powerful enough, plenty of goods will come straight to your door.”

The madam didn’t want to talk much about these trivial matters since she didn’t wish to disturb Li Qiye’s rare tranquil mood. She gently rubbed his temples and said: “However, a Demon Monarch of the Alpine Mountain came to find me. He said that the Maple

King wants to meet you. Would you like to see him?”

“Maple King?” Li Qiye casually asked: “A disciple of the Allpine Treefather?”

“No.” The madam gently shook her head and said: “In terms of seniority, the Maple King is only a grand disciple of the treefather. He wants to meet Young Master and ask a few questions.”

Chapter 687: Mysterious Girl

“He wants my consultation?” Li Qiye chuckled and said: “A bit interesting, a grand disciple of the treefather wants to ask me questions. Interesting...”

It was needless to talk about the treefather’s status, but as the grand disciple and the current sect master of the Allpine Mountain, the Maple King’s status in this world was not less than the sect master of an imperial lineage. But now, such a grand character wanted to consult a no-name junior — this was indeed worth pondering.

“Maybe, news of the Divine Guardian’s actions had reached the Allpine Treefather.” Madam Zi Yan said: “Our Divine Guardian and the treefather are referred to as the two Demon Forefathers of the Stone Medicine World, and our guardian had not taken any action for millions of years. But now, it suddenly acted. Perhaps the Allpine Mountain is curious about this.”

Li Qiye smiled since he knew more things that the madam couldn’t have speculated.

“Will Young Master meet the Maple King?” The madam asked while rubbing Li Qiye’s temples.

The Maple King had a great reputation in the Stone Medicine World. Others wouldn’t be able to meet someone with such a high status, but now, it was the complete opposite.

However, the madam felt that this was how it should be. She understood that not just anyone could earn her Young Master's approval.

“We'll meet him then.” Li Qiye smiled and lightly said: “Tomorrow, send a message to the Allpine people and tell the Maple King to come to my place.”

The madam acknowledged the command without saying anything else.

On the second day, she sent out the message and told the Maple King to come meet Li Qiye. Meanwhile, Li Qiye was still staying in the valley as if he had nothing else to do besides happily sunbathing.

“Hey, do you have a secret place for me to hide?” While Li Qiye was still leisurely bathing in the sun, a pleasant voice suddenly appeared next to him.

At this time, he slowly opened his eyes to look at the direction of the sound. A girl could be found standing next to him.

She wore a light-coloured dress. Although it was simple to the point of being plain and was without a single accessory, it still couldn't hide her dazzling appearance.

She was like a jewel whose brilliance even the night's darkness couldn't conceal.

It could be said that the girl ahead was kingdom-topplingly beautiful. Whether it was her features or her figure, all were without complaints.

Her figure was outstanding despite her loose clothing. One could still see her towering peaks rising and falling, full and firm. Her breasts could only be described as perfect. Such a pair of rich breasts could still show off its perfect outlines despite the loose clothing. Her narrow waist could easily be embraced with one's arm — round and slender. Her pretty thighs in combination with her tall and thin figure could only be considered unparalleled.

Li Qiye had many women around him, but regarding such an alluring figure, only Chen Baojiao would be a match.

However, the girl ahead was different from Chen Baojiao's sexy demeanor. Her features and temperament were completely different.

She had beautiful, golden hair to match her proud and unrivaled figure. It gave off a very exotic appearance, creating an irresistible temptation.

However, these were not her most attractive points. The most seductive aspect about the girl before him was her eyes. They were as bright as stars and as clear as a spring.

Her face was peerless and had an oval contour that exuded a unique nobility. With just a glance, people would know that she

came from a high standing family. Moreover, there was an indescribable aura, gentle yet strong, mixed together. This aura was completely unique and full of flavor.

“Do you have a place to hide?” The girl hastily asked Li Qiye once more while revealing a very anxious look.

Li Qiye sat up and smiled. He casually prepared a [chess board](#) on the table in front of him and said: “Come, play a match with me.”

This is Xiang Qi, Chinese chess.

The anxious woman was taken aback, but she was very clever and immediately sat down on the opposite side of Li Qiye. At this time, Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve and the girl’s appearance immediately changed. Although she was still a girl, her clothes and appearance were completely transformed.

This girl was also quite unfathomable. After sitting down, she was initially very nervous. However, in an instant, she immediately composed herself and began to make moves with her pieces.

Li Qiye couldn’t help but chuckle at the calm girl in front of him and leisurely played against her.

As their match went on, a commotion rang outside and a group of people quickly rushed in. All of them had soaring blood energies and were very powerful.

They were led by a middle-aged man that appeared to be very ordinary, but he had a frightening aura as if there was a dragon hidden inside his body. Even if this man wanted to hide his aura, it would still be akin to high tides slamming into a beach; one could easily imagine how powerful he must be.

They rushed over and looked around as if they wanted to see through the entire valley. Eventually, their eyes fell upon Li Qiye and the girl. However, it was just a passing glance, they didn't pay too much attention to them.

At this time, the madam returned and saw quite a few people in the valley, thus she inquired: "What's happening?"

At this time, Li Qiye finally lifted his head and commanded: "Zi Yan, we have some guests so go greet them. Wait until I am finished with this match."

Meanwhile, the middle-aged man took a look around and found nothing suspicious, so he cupped his hands towards the madam and said: "Royal Lord Zi Yan, please excuse us. Goodbye."

With that, he didn't wait for a response and quickly led his group away. It was clear that this man was in a hurry; he didn't linger at all.

The madam stared at the departing group with some surprise. She went closer to Li Qiye while looking at the chess match between him and the girl and had to ask: "Young Master, what actually happened?"

At this time, Li Qiye smiled while looking at the girl ahead: “It is nothing, someone only wanted to hide at our place for a bit.”

At this time, the girl laughed and excitedly exclaimed: “Haha, you lost!” After a series of moves, she immediately pushed Li Qiye’s pieces to checkmate and obtained victory.

Li Qiye glanced at the match and smiled to say: “Amazing, truly amazing. To be able to see everything with just one move, interesting... interesting.”

The girl did not gloat too much, she only smiled while standing up. The moment she got up, her face and clothing returned to normal. She was already supremely peerless, so the moment she smiled, her country-toppling smile was able to seduce all living beings.

Although Madam Zi Yan was also considered a great beauty, she couldn’t help but sigh before the supreme beauty ahead of her. She was indeed far from being comparable.

At this time, the supreme beauty looked at Li Qiye and asked: “How did you know that this little trick would fool them?”

Li Qiye smiled lightly and leisurely explained: “You are smart, so you should know the techniques to deal with smart people.”

Her pretty eyes narrowed as she responded: “I see, how could he

think that I would be so bold as to leisurely play chess without a care for him? Under such circumstances, I should have either ran away or went to find a special place to hide.”

Li Qiye let out a faint smile as he praised: “Very smart, a smart girl is indeed very likable.”

“Thanks.” The supreme beauty revealed a truly charming smile as she said: “You helped me this time, so I’ll get you back later.”

Li Qiye looked at the beauty and calmly said: “Later? That’s too far away, it is fine if you pay me back now. I’m not the type who asks for a lot, so I won’t mind if you pay me back with your body. I’ll just get the short end of the stick this time.”

The madam was speechless the moment she heard Li Qiye’s words. However, she had to admit that this type of teasing from Li Qiye didn’t sound dirty at all. His leisurely and calm bearing made it sound very natural.

Meanwhile, the peerless beauty couldn’t help but glare at Li Qiye, snappily saying: “I actually thought you were a good person just now. Who would have thought?!”

“You are right about that.” Li Qiye leisurely smiled and replied: “I have always been a bad person, a notorious brute who likes smart beauties the most. Of course, if you are willing to stay by my side, I would be very happy to take you in.”

“Shameless scoundrel!” The angry beauty uttered while glaring at Li Qiye. The moment her words came out, she pointed a finger at him in an extremely overwhelming manner, a finger that looked like a falling star.

“Meteor Finger, a bit interesting.” Li Qiye chuckled after seeing this approaching finger technique. Having said that, he also used a finger as a sword and swung it in the air. In this split second, his sword swept towards the meteor to cut through the girl’s supreme finger technique.

“Clank!” The two fingers met just like the collision of two divine swords. Earlier, the girl only wanted to scare Li Qiye a bit with her attack, so she immediately found herself at a disadvantage and had to take several thumping steps back.

“Hmph, you think you are so great?” After being pushed back by Li Qiye’s technique, the peerless and unconvinced girl scowled and exclaimed: “I also know this technique!”

Having said that, she pointed her finger straight up to form a sword. The moment she unleashed this technique, there seemed to be a heavenly sword swinging in the sky, causing the stars to fall.

The madam startingly gasped after seeing this sword because this move from the girl was exactly the same as Li Qiye’s sword technique from earlier.

Chapter 688: Maple King

Li Qiye's technique from earlier was from the "Grass Sword Attacking the Immortal Law", but it was unleashed by the girl in the exact same manner as Li Qiye as if she had learned it before.

"Interesting." Li Qiye turned his palm into a saber in the face of this sweeping sword attack and set off the blade in a domineering manner. Li Qiye's power was already extremely mighty, so when this one saber technique from the Heaven Traversing Eight Saber was casually performed, it carried a ferocious and tyrannical momentum!

"Pop!" Although the supreme girl used the grass sword technique, she was still on the losing end against Li Qiye, just like before, and she had to take several staggered steps backward.

"Although you learned the sword technique, you didn't grasp its true essence." Li Qiye shook his head and said: "Nevertheless, this is already quite amazing. To be able to learn from just a single glance... This is almost better than Little Mei's Immortal Bone."

The "Little Mei" Li Qiye referred to was Mei Suyao from the Eternal River School!

"Hmph! You think you are so special? Who said that I can't learn its true essence?" The peerless girl snorted and was completely unconvinced. At this moment, her demeanor was very serious as her eyes narrowed. At this second, she changed her palm into a saber and sent it straight towards Li Qiye. This was the same

technique from the Heaven Traversing Eight Saber that Li Qiye used earlier.

What was even more astonishing was that this saber from her hand also had the very domineering momentum.

Li Qiye swiftly shifted his figure with an unparalleled speed and easily dodged her attack.

This scene left Madam Zi Yan, who was standing to the side, astonished. This girl was able to learn anyone's technique with a single glance — too frightening! What kind of monstrous aptitude was this?!

The girl immediately stopped after Li Qiye dodged the saber within the blink of an eye. She was taken off guard and stared at Li Qiye to say: “What kind of step technique is that? Or what kind of merit law is it? I actually can't see through it and am unable to learn it!”

It was not strange for the girl to be unable to understand the movement technique Li Qiye used because it was his Soaring Immortal Physique! Moreover, his physique came from the most profound scripture in the world. Even the most unrivaled genius across the eons would not be able to understand it with a single glance.

“It is normal that you can't see through it.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “If you could grasp it with a single glance, then that would truly be strange. You would cause countless people across the eons

to jump into a river and off themselves if they knew you could do such a thing.”

“Hmph, you think you are cool?” The supreme girl snorted and said: “Isn’t it just a physique law? I know quite a few physique laws.”

Li Qiye cheerfully smiled and asked: “So you want to try again?”

The girl couldn’t help but glare at him with her pretty eyes. She became a bit impatient as if she still wanted to see Li Qiye’s Soaring Immortal Physique one more time. However, she quickly buried this anxious urge and shook her head to say: “I’m not playing with you anymore since I hate fighting the most. Hmph, I’m gonna go now, I’m not going to waste more time with you.”

“But you still haven’t thanked me.” Said Li Qiye as he smiled at the girl.

The girl who was about to leave gave Li Qiye a look of disdain and said: “Hmph, now that I know you are a scoundrel with no good intentions from the start, why should I thank you? Why should I repay my debt?”

Her answer made Li Qiye burst out in laughter while the girl ignored him and left.

“If you are truly clever, then your best opportunity is to follow right behind them. Then, maybe you will have a chance to escape

the Allpine Mountain. Otherwise, you must pray for the Allpine Treefather to not take action or else you won't be able to escape even if you grew wings." Li Qiye shouted towards the pretty girl's departing shadow.

"I know that already since I'm much smarter than you." The girl didn't turn around and quickly disappeared as if she was anxious to leave this place.

"Young Master knows her?" The madam asked Li Qiye who was now lying back down in his armchair.

Li Qiye slightly shook his head and replied: "I don't know her, but that girl is indeed interesting and absolutely incredible."

Madam Zi Yan was worried, so she said: "I haven't seen that young miss before. However, the middle-aged man earlier is very famous as he is from the Beastmaster Citadel."

"Beastmaster Citadel?" Li Qiye only narrowed his eyes and revealed a faint smile without commenting further.

The citadel was renowned in the Stone Medicine World as a sect with two emperors. Outsiders even told legends of them having a divine beast in the form of a true dragon. However, no one could verify this statement.

"It is not strange for the Beastmaster Citadel to come celebrate the treefather's birthday. However, it along with the Alchemy

Kingdom and the Jianlong Clan have not cared for the secular world in a very long time.” The madam couldn’t help but muse for a moment before gently speaking: “Why is the Beastmaster Citadel chasing a girl like her?”

“That is their business. The girl is extremely smart, so let her be.” Li Qiye smiled and showed that he didn’t really care, he only lazed around in his chair.

The madam looked at her Young Master and said: “Young Master is a great strategist who knows everything in the world like the palm of your hand. There is one thing that I don’t quite understand. Why do all of these imperial lineages maintain such a low profile? What is the reasoning behind this?”

This was indeed uncommon in the Stone Medicine World. The Beastmaster Citadel had two emperors, the Jianlong Clan had three, and of course, the Alchemy Kingdom was even more frightening with three Immortal Emperors and three Alchemy Emperors. Nevertheless, these monstrous existences were always low-key and ignored what happened in the world.

In fact, many great powers and cultivators slowly got used to this. They felt that only such supreme existences had no need for competition since they were already at the peak of the world, thus they chose to live in seclusion instead.

However, the madam disagreed with this notion and felt that there was a particular reason despite not knowing the exact details.

Today, she couldn't help but ask Li Qiye this question that had been plaguing her mind for a very long time. In her view, there was nothing Li Qiye didn't know.

“Being low-key is not necessarily a bad thing. They have seen many things and understood that there is always a higher mountain and always a stronger man. Lineages like the Alchemy Kingdom's imperial family had been around since the Desolate Era, and after millions of years of experience without falling, they have seen a lot and understood the dangers of the world.” Li Qiye explained with a grin.

Although her Young Master didn't give her an answer, she didn't inquire any further. Instead, she softly spoke: “Tomorrow, the Maple King will come to meet Young Master.”

Li Qiye only slightly nodded and didn't say anything else.

Sure enough, on the next day, the Maple King came to visit their valley. He was an old looking expert. However, despite his old age, his blood energy was still strong as if he was still middle-aged. People would know after seeing this energy that he would be able to live on for 2,000 to 3,000 more years without any problems.

He was a grand disciple of the Alpine Treefather and was rumored to have an unfathomable cultivation. Moreover, he was currently the person in charge of the Alpine Mountain. With such status, even the sect master of an imperial lineage wouldn't dare to show him disdain.

However, no matter who the person might be or what their origin was, it was very difficult to shock Li Qiye. Therefore, upon the Maple King's arrival, Li Qiye was still calmly seated in his chair.

However, the Maple King did not put on airs. Even as the ruler of the mountain, he still revealed an approachable and humble attitude the moment he met Li Qiye. Most likely, he had heard a few things about Li Qiye before, so he didn't dare to show any contempt.

They met and exchanged a few cordial remarks before he smiled and asked Li Qiye: "I heard that Young Noble Li's alchemy is supreme, so I wonder if I may have the honor of seeing it once?"

Li Qiye looked at the king and said: "Since you specifically wanted to meet me, we don't have to go around in circles. Go ahead and state your business."

The Maple King went quiet for a moment before speaking: "I came to meet Young Noble Li without any malicious intent. I heard that your country's deity had taken action recently, so I want to ask about its recent status."

Li Qiye's brows slightly lifted as he calmly said: "Get to the point, there is no need to drag this on."

The king pondered for a moment and had to say: "I heard that Young Noble can communicate with your deity, and my grand master wants to talk to your deity. Will Young Noble be willing to

help?”

“This is not what I wanted to hear.” Li Qiye shook his head and said: “It seems that we have nothing to talk about, so please return. Come back after you have thought about it carefully. However, my patience is limited. You will still have a chance before I leave.”

The Maple King couldn't help but be a bit stunned. He had heard about Li Qiye's arrogance, but he didn't expect for it to reach this magnitude — truly unbelievable. One had to know that with his status, just him personally coming to visit Li Qiye was already showing more than enough consideration. But now, after a few undesirable exchanges, Li Qiye immediately wanted to send him away. Even the sect master of an imperial lineage wouldn't dare to do this to him.

Although he was very dissatisfied in his mind, he was still a grand character and was able to retain his calm demeanor. He said with a deepened tone: “Young Noble Li, I came with great sincerity this time.”

Li Qiye was too lazy to even glance at him again as he responded: “If you came with sincerity, then just directly state what you need, there is no need to walk in circles. Such tricks might deceive someone else, but not me. If you don't want to say it, then I won't force you, but don't try to test me, my patience is limited.”

“If Young Noble Li believes so, then I can't do anything about it. I'll take my leave now.” Said the unhappy Maple King as he cupped his hands before quickly taking his leave.

Anyone else would have exploded on the spot. However, despite his dissatisfaction, he had to maintain decorum as the ruler of the Allpine Mountain.

The madam was startled by the exchange as well. She did not expect for the meeting to go sour like this.

Chapter 689: Gathering Of Guests

“Young Master, is there a problem with the Maple King?” The madam was quite puzzled. In theory, the Maple King’s question was quite reasonable, so why was her Young Master so unwelcoming towards him?

“The treefather wants to communicate with our deity, and they want me to be the intermediary for their messages...” Li Qiye smiled and asked: “Do you think such a story is believable?”

The madam was confused and said: “Is there a problem with this? Young Master is the only person who can communicate with our Divine Guardian.”

“You are mistaken about this. If the Alpine Treefather truly wanted to communicate with the Giant Bamboo Deity, then there would be no need for a messenger since he can directly send his messages.” Li Qiye smiled while shaking his head.

The madam couldn’t help but say: “However, I heard that the treefather cannot leave Alpine Mountain.”

Li Qiye said: “Zi Yan, your information regarding this aspect is a bit lacking. Both the treefather and our Divine Guardian... For existences of their level, distance is no longer a problem unless it is crossing between the nine worlds. Therefore, the treefather shouldn’t have any issues communicating with our guardian.”

“Young Master is saying that....” After hearing his response, the

madam was slightly stunned since she didn't expect that this would be possible.

“So to say, that wasn't the reason why the Maple King came. The whole thing about communication was only a facade.” Li Qiye slowly explained.

The madam found it strange and asked: “Then what did the Maple King come for? In theory, Allpine Mountain is stronger on all fronts compared to our Giant Bamboo Country. We shouldn't have something for them to scheme for.”

“No rush, it is not hard to find an answer to this question.” Li Qiye smirked and calmly said: “If Allpine Mountain wants our assistance, then they will come again sooner or later.”

As the birthday celebration of the treefather drew closer, more and more carriages and guests came to Allpine Mountain. The reception line at the entrance of the mountain was endless and extremely crowded in some locations. Many sects from the three realms brought along experts and disciples to give the treefather their blessings.

Luckily, the mountain was vast so there was still enough space to hold the guests from all over the world. Although monstrous existences like the Alchemy Kingdom, the Jianlong Clan, the Beastmaster Citadel, and the Heavenhoof Ravine were present, ordinary guests didn't have the chance to even meet them.

However, this didn't stop them from discussing the great

characters from these monstrous lineages. The older cultivators could stay calm, but the younger ones couldn't handle their excitement. For a grand matter like the birthday of the treefather, outside of being a good chance for older cultivators to meet again, this was also a great opportunity for the younger generation to broaden their horizons and an occasion for them to make their names known. Because of this, the mountain itself almost became a stage as many young people, especially the proud geniuses, quickly showed themselves.

The descendants and disciples from all the big sects talked to each other, made friends, and even competed among themselves. Small groups also gossiped continuously, and this continued on every day at Alpine Mountain.

Thus, during these conversations, lineages like the Alchemy Kingdom and the Jianlong Clan naturally became hot topics of discussion.

"I heard that someone from the Alchemy Kingdom's imperial family came to celebrate the treefather's birthday. Could it be that Fairy Ming is here?" Although they had heard about the imperial family's arrival, none of them had the chance to see them. Nevertheless, some still inquired due to their curiosity.

The younger generation, especially the boys, talked to the point of craze about the number one beauty.

A young male cultivator from the Stone Realm excitedly uttered: "Is Fairy Ming actually here? Rumor has it that the fairy visited our Stone Realm last year, I wonder if that was true or not."

Ming Yexue, the main descendant of the imperial family and future ruler of the kingdom was also known as the number one beauty of the Stone Medicine World.

Any of these statuses were incomparably grand and untouchable. Thus, when anyone referred to Ming Yexue, including the older generation, all would call her “Fairy.”

“Who knows. Fairy Ming has always been mysterious and low-key, and it is said that very few people have actually seen her. I heard that all those who saw her were enchanted. Unfortunately, those who have seen her face are few in number even across our entire Alchemy Realm.” An Alchemy Realm’s cultivator emotionally explained.

“Yeah, Fairy Ming’s charm is boundless. I heard our Golden Crow Prince from the Heavenhoof Ravine also fell for her upon their first meeting.” A young cultivator from the Beast Realm excitedly commented.

“That’s nothing. I heard that even the supreme celestial being also marveled at Fairy Ming after seeing her. Rumor has it that he might have a chance of marrying her.”

The young participants couldn’t help but become silent after the supreme celestial being was brought up. Ye Qingcheng — this was a magical name. Both old and young would become silent after hearing this name, even the most arrogant of geniuses.

“Strictly speaking, if Fairy Ming is the most eligible to become the [imperial queen](#), then the supreme being is the most qualified to become the Immortal Emperor.” Although some people felt annoyed in their minds, they couldn’t help but admit this fact.

Empress would sound better than imperial queen here, but those are two different words. For example, Empress Hong Tian is Nu Di (female + emperor) while this word is Di Hou (imperial queen). Note that some of the more clunky terms in ED are pretty deliberate not just to be close to the raw in terms of the words themselves, but more about the overall meaning. It is because there are too many terms in ED, or else I would just go easy and use “queen” for this word instead of including the imperial prefix.

Countless people among the younger generation adored Fairy Ming, so no one was willing to talk about this matter any longer. To them, if Ye Qingcheng truly wanted to court Ming Yexue, then no one else could compete with him.

“I heard that someone from the Jianlong Clan came as well.” Those who didn’t want to continue discussing the issue of marriage, since it was only a cause of sadness, changed the topic.

The young cultivator from the Stone Realm inquired: “[Mei Aoxue](#), no, Young Noble Mei is also here?”

Mei Aoxue = Apricot + Arrogant Snow.

A cultivator who knew a bit about this issue lightly shook his head and said: “No, just some other disciple from their clan. I heard that Mei Aoxue... No, [Young Noble Mei](#) only ordered someone to come in her stead.

Note, the reason why these speakers are hesitating is because she is a girl, but people still call her Young Noble, which is an address meant for guys.

“Pretty amazing, right? Young Noble Mei leaving the Jianlong Clan by herself... Is this the prelude to her ambition of creating her own sect or country?” Someone couldn’t help but comment.

There was a saying in the Stone Medicine World: Imperial [Edge](#) Mei Aoxue, Celestial Being Ye Qingcheng. Another one dictated: Not a man yet even better than one; the woman with a heroic spirit, Mei Aoxue.

The word here is closer to frontier/border, but edge also has that meaning and sounds better

Mei Aoxue was renowned across the world along with Ye Qingcheng. Moreover, she came from a monstrous existence, the Jianlong Clan.

A cultivator movingly said: “Although Young Noble Mei didn’t debut early like Ye Qingcheng and her fame is not as great, in recent years, her momentum has become unstoppable. She welcomed experts from all over the world to form her own group. I’m afraid she will be able to establish her own country in just a few years.”

Another youth from the Stone Realm said: “Young Noble Mei’s country could be considered established already, but she still hasn’t made it official for now. Young Noble Mei’s Imperial Edge has become a great power; it’s extremely strong and can’t be

overlooked by any sect.”

“Young Noble Mei is quite ambitious, she wants to become the Immortal Emperor of a generation, an [Empress](#), actually.” Said another.

Capitalizing Empress here since it is a special word for certain female emperors. There are other female emperors who still use Immortal Emperor instead of Empress. The only Empress I know of so far is Hong Tian. It might just be in titles only, but I’m gonna keep the distinction intact even for the translation.

Although Mei Aoxue came from the Jianlong Clan, she was very different from others. Many geniuses relied on their sects or clans to begin their rise, but Mei Aoxue chose not to do so.

Her story was a legend throughout the Stone Medicine World. It told that the Jianlong Clan didn’t worry about mundane matters, but Mei Aoxue had supreme talents and wanted to reach Immortal Emperor. The story told that she left the Jianlong Clan at a very young age to venture all over the world, including many dangerous locations, in order to train herself.

A few years ago, Mei Aoxue came out of nowhere and established the unstoppable Imperial Edge by herself. Within this timeframe, her fame slowly caught up to Ye Qingcheng’s, and others started to honor her by calling her Young Noble Mei.

“The seclusive powers like the Jianlong Clan came, but other monsters like the Beastmaster Citadel from the Beast Realm have arrived too.” Someone stated.

“There is more than just the Beastmaster Citadel from our Beast Realm coming here, such as the Heavenhoof Ravine. A few days ago, I actually saw the Pill Monarch from the Beastmaster Citadel...” A different cultivator from the Beast Realm responded.

While the young ones congregated together to talk about all kinds of interesting topics, Li Qiye waited several days inside the valley before he suddenly opened his eyes and told the madam standing by his side: “Come, we’ll take a trip outside. The scenery of Allpine Mountain is top-notch in the Alchemy Realm, so wouldn’t it be a waste if we don’t go sightseeing for a bit?”

The madam didn’t say anything and continued to accompany him. The moment they reached the door, the Imperial Draco-Bull dragged the carriage over without Li Qiye having to say anything.

Li Qiye sat on the carriage and casually handed the reins to Madam Zi Yan. She hesitated for a moment before accepting the reins in a natural manner.

Li Qiye sat inside while the madam sat next to him with the reins in one hand, acting as if she was the driver.

“From now on, this Imperial Draco-Bull shall be the second Divine Guardian of the Giant Bamboo Country.” Inside the carriage, Li Qiye told the madam.

She couldn't help but be slightly jolted upon hearing this since this was outside of her expectations. Keep in mind that not just any existence could become the Divine Guardian of a country.

“Moوو—” After hearing this, the bull let out a cry. It was obviously very reluctant to take this position.

The beast's response surprised the madam even more. One must know that their Divine Guardian right now was the Giant Bamboo, an existence known as a deity of the Godking level. However, this buffalo ahead actually didn't want to become their Divine Guardian. This made her feel quite dejected.

Chapter 690: Dao-Sense Peak

“Don’t worry, you will still be my mount later on. Of course, half of your mark will be left behind at the Giant Bamboo Country while I try to find a better location for your other half. You will have two places then.” Said Li Qiye with a smile in response to the bull’s complaint.

“Moo—” At this time, the bull called out again. It seemed to be satisfied with Li Qiye’s new arrangement.

The madam was amazed. This ordinary buffalo before her was very spiritual. Meanwhile, Li Qiye noted her expression and shook his head while smilingly saying: “You are looking down on this bull. In the future, it will become a true dragon. At this moment, it just can’t seem to pass the final test. Of course, when it breaks through the chains of its bloodline, it will become a dragon. Naturally, it can turn into a supreme, [divine buffalo](#) as well.”

A Kuiniu/buffalo is a polysemous figure in ancient Chinese mythology. Classic texts use this name for the legendary musician Kui who invented music and dancing; for the one-legged mountain demon or rain-god Kui that is said to resemble a Chinese dragon, a drum, or a monkey with a human face; and for the Kuiniu wild yak or buffalo.

Keep in mind that both true dragons and divine buffalos were true divine beasts with unimaginable power. Moreover, this buffalo was only one step away from becoming a real divine beast, so one could only imagine its power.

The Imperial Draco-Bull pulled the carriage out of the valley and

walked through Allpine Mountain. No matter if it was a deep gorge or a dangerous mountain, it kept on pulling the carriage with a consistent speed as if it was on flat ground.

In fact, the bull didn't need a driver. With Li Qiye's command, it could take Li Qiye to any destination. Madam Zi Yan, as the driver, only sat and kept him company; there was no need to control the bull.

As one of the eight grand veins, Allpine Mountain was extremely vast with countless valleys and peaks in its territory that spanned tens of millions of miles. In this place, there were too many beautiful and dangerous sceneries to be described with words.

Rolling mountains were everywhere, and some even reached the high clouds in the sky. There were also mysterious gorges as well as many tall and old trees with vines crawling everywhere. There were also lingzhi roots and amazing grasses. As for the beasts, one could hear the cries of cranes and the hoots of [birds](#) as well as the roars of tigers alongside hidden dragons...

Bird here is actually a mythical bird resembling the phoenix, a luan. However, using mythical bird here didn't seem to fit the context. Perhaps I could just use phoenix here, but that would be inaccurate although fitting.

Even ten days and ten nights would not be enough to visit all the places in this vast land despite the carriage being able to go through all the menacing terrains as if they were flat.

Li Qiye closed his eyes to rest inside the carriage. He had a lazy

appearance as if he didn't get enough sleep, so he had to make up for it right now.

The madam next to him noticed him resting the whole way without batting an eye. He didn't appreciate the sceneries at all, so she couldn't help but softly ask: "Didn't Young Master want to see the beautiful sceneries of Allpine Mountain?"

At this time, Li Qiye opened his eyes slightly to look at the madam and cheerfully said: "Zi Yan, for me, sceneries aren't appreciated with the eyes, but with the heart. Use your heart to sense just how vast this land is; use your mind to feel its wonders."

Upon hearing this answer, the madam understood that her Young Master was not here for sightseeing at all. However, she didn't inquire any further and only gently placed a soft fur coat around his body.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye enjoyed the madam's care and lied down as if he was falling asleep.

Their carriage attracted a lot of attention. Since there were so many guests at Allpine Mountain, each peak and valley were occupied. Moreover, the guests went around everywhere, causing quite a lively atmosphere.

A plain person like Li Qiye shouldn't have been notable, and his carriage was lacking even more pomp. Among the new arrivals, too many of them used auspicious beasts as mounts. For some people with higher status, even a dragon horse was only the lowest type of

mount, so Li Qiye and his buffalo appeared to be peasants. Such a person with such a carriage wouldn't be able to steal a glimpse from others.

However, the other person sitting on the carriage was Madam Zi Yan. She was not only a ruler as a great Demon King, she was also a beauty. Thus, among the younger generation, she still enjoyed quite a reputation.

But now, a belle like Madam Zi Yan was accompanying Li Qiye. She was in charge of the reins while waiting on him with an attitude as soft as water. How could such a picture not garner many askance views from the wandering guests?

She had many admirers and suitors, so many were both envious and jealous after seeing this scene. They found it strange and wondered what this ordinary junior's identity was to win such favor from the madam.

The carriage moved at a steady pace as many passengers whispered while pointing with their fingers.

However, Li Qiye's eyes remained closed, resting as if he was asleep. The madam sat there and occasionally, she would look down at the sleeping Li Qiye.

This young man before her had no notable characteristics and was even younger than her, but for an unknown reason, when sitting beside him and giving him company, it gave her an indescribable tranquility as well as an unprecedented sense of

security. She felt that even if the world was torn asunder and the nine worlds faced destruction, she would be fine just by staying close to this man.

Only after contact would one be able to understand just how unimaginably unfathomable this seemingly ordinary man was. He was full of mysteries and had a strange charm that attracted everyone in a sublime manner. It was as if he had an answer for all things in this world since he was the ruler of the universe.

All of a sudden, Li Qiye opened his eyes and smilingly said while looking at the madam's pretty face: "[Don't go crazy over me; I am only a legend.](#)"

Don't go crazy over this Young Master, this Young Master is only a legend — this would be the raw.

This caused the madam to jump. Her face flushed after hearing Li Qiye's words. She couldn't help but reveal the appearance of a young lady as she coquettishly glared at him and asked: "Is Young Master always so narcissistic?"

As a great Demon King, she always gave off a dignified impression to others, but today, her appearance that resembled a young lady was truly dazzling and beautiful.

"This isn't called narcissism." Li Qiye chuckled and slowly said: "This is called a matter of course. Your Young Master's irresistible charm is capable of conquering all existences."

"Young Master, 'irresistible charm capable of conquering all

existences' is a phrase used to describe girls; you are a man!" The madam didn't know whether to laugh or cry as she gave him a stern yet flirtatious look.

Li Qiye smiled and gently caressed her jade-like hand before closing his eyes again, saying: "Of course I would conquer everyone with my charm. However, you also 'conquered' me. I like girls of your type the most."

The madam faintly smiled, and inside this smile, there was an indescribable sweetness as if she understood that Li Qiye wasn't just teasing her. This gave her a satisfaction like never before.

It seemed that at this moment, even the Imperial Draco-Bull pulling the carriage slowed its pace. It didn't want to disturb this moment of peace and enjoyment for Li Qiye.

The carriage moved forward, and after a while, it passed by a towering mountain. This mountain was gigantic and towered all the way up into the clouds like a huge hand planted in the firmament.

"Would Young Master be interested to go to Dao-sense Peak for a look?" The madam looked at this high mountain and asked Li Qiye: "Many people who visit Alpine Mountain would also go to the Dao-sense Peak at least once. Not only is it famous here, it is also renowned throughout the entire Alchemy Realm."

"Dao-sense Peak?" Li Qiye opened his eyes at this time to look at the towering mountain that barged into the clouds.

“On this peak, one can further their understanding of the dao. So, does Young Master wish to go?” The madam looked at him and gently smiled to say: “Who knows, maybe Young Master can become enlightened and obtain a grand dao.”

“Obtain a grand dao? I am the grand dao.” Li Qiye arrogantly proclaimed. However, he looked back at the madam sitting next to him and said: “Well, since we are here already, we might as well take a look.”

There was no need for any instructions from the madam, the bull dragged the carriage towards Dao-sense Peak. The moment they made it up the mountain, they saw a straight cliff that was very vast and full of runes. These complex runic arrays were naturally formed as if this wall had withstood an eternity and began to crack, forming these lines.

Among the cliff full of intricate patterns, a large palm print could be found. It was bigger than a table. Moreover, it didn't seem like it was chiseled via tools, someone must have left their mark on this cliff. Nevertheless, it still had a natural appearance as if it had been given shape with time.

In front of this cliff on Dao-sense Peak were many people. The majority belonged to the younger generation, mostly the geniuses. They sat cross-legged before it and carefully gazed at the cliff. Some also stood under the shade of the trees nearby with their eyes closed while trying to sense something. Others hovered in the sky, wishing to understand the mysteries within...

All in all, cultivators on the peak were observing the cliff from all possible angles with great vigor in order to sense any fluctuations that might emanate from within. These young cultivators from sects all over the world hoped to gain some harvest in grasping the mysteries of the tall cliff.

Dao-sense Peak was famous in the entire Alchemy Realm. Anyone who came to Alpine Mountain would take a trip here to look at this cliff in hopes of becoming enlightened in the dao.

The reason was very simple; Immortal Emperor Wan Shi left behind a palm print on this Dao-sense Cliff even before the birth of the Alpine Treefather.

How great was Immortal Emperor Wan Shi? He was the first Immortal Emperor of the golem race! He came from the Stone Medicine World and stunned the entire world as he trod on a supreme path to become an Immortal Emperor.

Chapter 691: Secret Of Dao-Sense Peak

As their first emperor, Immortal Emperor Wan Shi heralded an extraordinary era for the future of the golems. However, he was another emperor full of mysteries and didn't leave behind any lineage or inheritance either. There were even rumors stating that the emperor didn't take in a disciple at all.

Moreover, he seemed to disappear overnight; no one knew how he managed to do so or where he went. His whereabouts were a mystery to the Stone Medicine World, and something even stranger was that some thought that he was still in this world.

In short, although he was the first golem emperor, there were very few items or findings related to him. However, this palm print ahead was one of the few things from the emperor that could be researched.

Legend states that during the Desolate Era, after Immortal Emperor Wan Shi shouldered the Heaven's Will, he traveled across the world and stumbled upon Allpine Mountain. After enjoying the beautiful sceneries here, he went on top of a peak and left behind a palm print.

Later on, this peak became the famous Dao-sense Peak, an object of numerous theories and legends.

One legend stated that when the emperor left behind his palm print, it also left behind his dao lineage that merely awaited the right inheritor. Others said that it wasn't a complete dao lineage,

but an invincible secret art of this world. Another conjecture was that this place contained a map. If one could understand this map, then they would be able to find the location where the emperor left behind his treasury...

In short, regardless of the theory, everyone from the future generations believed that the emperor did indeed leave behind a mystery here that year. It could be a merit law or the dao lineage of an Immortal Emperor, or maybe a treasure map...

Because of this, for tens of millions of years, people had always come here to learn, but no one had heard of any success.

However, there was another rumor that stated that the Allpine Treefather had obtained something from this place. The story claimed that after the treefather obtained intelligence and shape from the dao, he came to this cliff to learn and gained the emperor's secret art. Because of this, he was finally able to become a Demon Forefather...

Allpine Mountain and even the Allpine Treefather himself neither denied nor confirmed this particular rumor, thus, outsiders didn't know whether the treefather had obtained something in this place or not.

All in all, as long as there was a chance to enter Allpine Mountain, any cultivator, especially the younger ones who valued themselves greatly, would come to Dao-sense Peak to ponder the mysteries left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi.

Allpine Mountain did not stop cultivators from going to the peak to search for enlightenment. In fact, this was not a big deal to them. It could even be said that the mountain was not afraid of anyone understanding the profundities within because, for tens of millions of years, countless brilliant geniuses were unable to do so, thus it was impossible for others even if they tried.

However, even though everyone knew that it was impossible, they never gave up and continued to come and test themselves. This time, during the treefather's birthday, many guests and young geniuses didn't mind traveling the long distance. Since they were already here, they wouldn't miss the opportunity to come meditate at Dao-sense Peak.

Unfortunately, during the last couple of days, countless people had come and gone, but no one's efforts yielded any fruit. Groups came and went despite all of them knowing that they would leave empty-handed, but they still did not give up since it would be a waste of a trip to Allpine Mountain.

"Well, there is basically nothing on this cliff, haa." At this time, many young cultivators were at the cliff, wanting to unravel the mysteries. However, after a very long time, they still hadn't found anything, so one of the cultivators chose to give up.

"There is definitely something there." A more gifted person spoke: "I can clearly sense the fluctuations within these dao runes; it's as if they are full of imperial aura. It is absolutely true that Immortal Emperor Wan Shi left behind a secret art here."

"So what?" The cultivator who gave up said: "Countless geniuses

have tried for millions of years and found no way of learning it. I don't have a chance anyway, might as well give up now."

After the group that had given up left, new groups came, coming to ponder on the palm print.

At this time, Li Qiye's carriage slowly climbed the peak. The moment he arrived at the cliff, the many cultivators here immediately glanced at him, especially the younger ones. They all stared at the carriage.

Of course, their eyes weren't on a nobody like Li Qiye, but on Madam Zi Yan instead. A beautiful Demon King like her would attract attention no matter where she went.

"Lady Zi Yan, we meet again." Before the carriage stopped, a young man with a mature look came to greet her. He had golden hair, bold tiger-like eyes, and a lion-like forehead — a rather heroic appearance. He quickly walked forward, and each of his steps emitted powerful roars. His strength was clear at a single glance.

Although this person was not too old, one absolutely must not underestimate him. He, along with Madam Zi Yan, were both the rulers of their countries; he was the Royal Lord of the Lion Country with the title Lion Young King.

The Lion Young King was one of Madam Zi Yan's many suitors, so he was very excited after seeing her and immediately came to give his greetings.

The madam slightly nodded and said after seeing his approach: “Lion Young King, long time no see.”

The young king gazed at the madam with a pair of eyes full of adoration and quickly smiled in response: “It has been five years since our last meeting. Miss Zi Yan is not only prettier, but your cultivation has become even more amazing. You are no weaker than any contemporary genius.”

Many people were looking at the madam, and of course, some of the younger ones wanted to come and start a conversation. However, they must be sensible regarding their own status and power. She was a great Demon King, so how could ordinary cultivators have the courage or qualifications to come greet her? Among the entire Stone Medicine World, very few young cultivators were able to reach the Heavenly King realm.

The madam only nodded with a smile, but the Lion Young King was afraid of giving up a good chance to travel together. Before the madam could say anything else, he quickly added: “Miss Zi Yan, I heard that your Giant Bamboo Country was still searching for talents, an alchemist to represent your country in the conference. I wonder if you have found one? If not, then I can introduce you to some; I know a few alchemists, all of whom are quite famous.”

“You don’t have to worry about that, the Giant Bamboo Country already has an alchemist for the conference.” Before the madam could answer, a different voice responded. Of course, the speaker was Li Qiye. He, who was previously resting, now had his eyes open and interrupted them with a smirk.

Li Qiye's sudden interjection left the Lion Young King a bit stunned. In fact, everyone was a bit stunned. It could even be said that all of them were only looking at the madam, and not many of them even caught a glimpse of him.

"This is...?" At this time, the Lion Young King finally took a look at Li Qiye. After seeing that there was nothing special about him, he immediately paid him no mind. If it wasn't out of consideration for the madam, a ruler like him wouldn't even bother talking to Li Qiye.

"The Giant Bamboo Country's alchemist." Before the madam could introduce him, Li Qiye smiled and slowly responded in her stead.

"It's an honor to meet you at last." The Lion Young King lightly said to Li Qiye before he stopped looking at him. If it wasn't for the madam, a nobody like Li Qiye wouldn't even be worthy to speak with him.

The young king wanted to talk to the madam, but she didn't seem to be very interested and spoke to Li Qiye instead: "Young Master, we are here at Dao-sense Peak, would you like to go closer for a look?"

"Very well, since we are here, we might as well take a look at it." Li Qiye smiled and stretched out his hand. The madam didn't say anything and held his hand to help him down from the carriage.

This scene caused many people to be quite annoyed. In their eyes,

Li Qiye was acting too big; he actually wanted assistance to descend from his carriage? Moreover, it was from a character of Madam Zi Yan's level.

Keep in mind that very few youngsters present were qualified to even speak with her. They must at least be characters at the same level as the Lion Young King.

But now, a nobody like Li Qiye was being helped down from the carriage by the madam — this was showboating beyond reason. Countless people were both jealous and envious in their minds, especially the youths who admired the madam. The only thing they wanted to do right now was to completely annihilate Li Qiye, but they could only mentally barrage him with curses.

The Lion Young King was about to explode from exasperation as well. He had been pursuing the madam for a very long time, but there was no reciprocation. And now, this nobody was able to enjoy such nice treatment. How could the young king not go crazy when the madam was showing Li Qiye so much favor?

However, such a thing to Li Qiye was natural, and he even took it for granted. After getting off the carriage, he went closer to the straight cliff ahead, accompanied by the madam.

“What a braggart...” Some people secretly scowled after seeing Li Qiye acting so pompously. Even if Li Qiye wasn't arrogant, in the eyes of others, he was putting on a show, making others quite uncomfortable. Who was to blame when he had a beauty such as the madam accompanying him?

Li Qiye stood before the cliff and looked at the palm print on it before casually saying: “Needing to meditate about such a simple thing, what a joke.”

Chapter 692: No Strangest, Only Stranger

Li Qiye's statement immediately soured the expressions of many cultivators here. Both young and old were here to learn the mystery left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi, so Li Qiye's statement offended them all.

The madam couldn't help but wryly smile at this as well. To immediately offend everyone with his first sentence — this truly required some skill. However, she had already grown accustomed to this since this was not her first time seeing her Young Master act so arrogantly.

“You don't know the immensity of the heaven and earth.” The Lion Young King's expression turned cold as he thunderously denounced: “How could a little alchemist like you understand the mystery left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi? Don't stand here and embarrass yourself. It is one thing if Miss Zi Yan could understand a bit, but a little alchemist like you spouting nonsense? Get to the side and don't bother people trying to meditate here...”

The Lion Young King was already annoyed at Li Qiye, so now after hearing his blustering, it was just in time for him to yell so that this little alchemist would know his place.

Li Qiye was too lazy to look at the young king. He swung his sleeve as if he was chasing away a fly and said: “Zi Yan, where did this stupid creature come from? Chase this eyesore away from my presence.”

“You!” The young king’s expression became extremely unsightly. He was the ruler of an entire country, a character with status, but he was now being humiliated by a nobody, how could he not be enraged?

The madam slightly shook her head and said: “Lion Young King, please leave. Our Young Master does not welcome you.”

The young king trembled from anger. He didn’t expect for the madam to speak these words to him; he couldn’t help but utter: “Miss Zi Yan, if your country needs an alchemist, our Lion Country will do our best to help you find an amazing young alchemist. Why do you have to show consideration for this nobody and suffer this injustice...”

“Lion Young King, I appreciate your kind intentions, but our Giant Bamboo Country’s matters will be handled by us.” The madam slowly said. Her attitude clearly showed how she wanted to chase him away.

The young king was very displeased. Today, he had suffered a great disgrace. He was already humiliated by this nobody Li Qiye, and now, even the madam was not being welcoming towards him. Nothing could be more shameful than this to him. He coldly scowled and gave a chilling glare towards Li Qiye before walking to the side.

Li Qiye ignored the young king and told the madam next to him: “Zi Yan, with such a good treasure displayed before everyone yet no one wants it, I’ll take it and give it to you as a small gift.”

“Such a big tone.” At this time, a cold voice came from the crowd. One person stepped out from the group and snorted to say: “Nameless brat, do you know what this is? This is the supreme mystery left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi. Since the ancient ages, even the most talented were unable to understand the slightest bit within it!”

The person who came out from the group was a young man. After coming out, his body emitted an unbearable heat and his steps created a metallic sound. He had sharp brows and bright eyes, culminating a handsome appearance with a proud aura.

“Vinepill King.” A person exclaimed after seeing this young man ahead.

“I’m a nameless brat?” Li Qiye chuckled at this young man’s address and leisurely said: “Where did this dog come from to dare bark in front of me like this?”

This response caused an uproar from the crowd. One person couldn’t help but yell: “Ignorant fool who doesn’t even recognize the Vinepill King, you are a frog under a well!”

The youth called the Vinepill King turned red from anger after hearing this. Although he was not the most powerful or famous character in present times, he was still very notorious, not to mention he had a remarkable background.

“Nameless brat, listen well. This young noble is a disciple of the

Heavenhoof Ravine, and people call me the Vinepill King...” The youth couldn’t swallow this anger, so he stated his title.

In fact, the cultivators here, both young and old, were very afraid of this youth. Regarding fame and cultivation, the Vinepill King couldn’t compare to famous geniuses in the present times or a great Demon King like Madam Zi Yan. However, he indeed had an amazing background as a disciple of the Heavenhoof Ravine. Moreover, he was highly regarded by its elders.

He was a demon monarch specializing in the dao of alchemy. His original self was a vine coiling itself around an ore, and with the fiery spark of this ore, it eventually became illuminated with the dao. This resulted in him having amazing flame control skill. Because of this, after joining the ravine, he was immediately valued by the elders and had the potential to be a leader of its alchemy section.

Although his strength and fame were less than the descendant of the ravine, the Golden Crow Prince, his position there was still very high. In addition to this, he was famous among its youths.

It was needless to say more about the Heavenhoof Ravine; this was an imperial lineage with two emperors that controlled fifteen countries in the Beast Realm with their great might.

After giving out his name, even those who didn’t know him would have heard of the Heavenhoof Ravine and its background, thus becoming fearful.

“Never heard of it.” Li Qiye waved his hand and interrupted the Vinepill King’s introduction. His attitude made the king angry to the point of wanting to vomit blood. It was as if he was talking to a wall! He assumed that his lineage would be able to frighten a nobody like Li Qiye. After all, there were very few lineages in the Stone Medicine World who weren’t afraid of his sect.

The madam next to Li Qiye only chuckled. It seemed that there were very few things in this world that could make her young master look twice.

“This brat is ridiculously arrogant...” Many people here gently shook their heads at the sight of Li Qiye’s arrogance. They knew that those who offended the ravine would not have a good ending.

Remember that the Alchemy Kingdom, the reclusive Jianlong Clan, and the Beastmaster Citadel did not care for the secular world and hid from everyone’s eyes. Because of this, the Heavenhoof Ravine was now arguably the most overbearing and powerful sect in present times. As long as the three previously named monsters didn’t come out, no one would be able to contend with the Heavenhoof Ravine.

Nevertheless, Li Qiye didn’t care for the Vinepill King. He told the madam: “Zi Yan, watch, I will get you the item left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi.”

The madam was taken aback this time. Earlier, she thought that her Young Master was just joking because everyone knew that this mystery had been left behind for countless years and was studied by numerous geniuses. The only person that was rumored to have

found success was the Allpine Treefather.

But now, this entire mystery seemed so trivial when it came out of Li Qiye's mouth. It was as if he had it within his grasp. While the madam was still startled, Li Qiye had already walked to the cliff and looked at the palm print, smiling.

The most upset with Li Qiye was the Lion Young King, so he coldly uttered: "What an arrogant junior. For millions of years, many geniuses yearned to comprehend it, yet all have failed. A worthless junior like him actually dares to try to solve the mystery of Immortal Emperor Wan Shi?"

However, Li Qiye paid no attention to the crowd. At this moment, he pricked his finger and let a drop of blood drip onto the palm print on the cliff.

"Haha, this young noble actually thought this nobody would have some incredible method, but this joke is actually using blood to try to gain the treasure's acceptance. Truly a frog under a well, a real country bumpkin. You think this treasure has its own consciousness? Or do you think you are the descendant of Immortal Emperor Wan Shi? To actually drip your blood onto the treasure, this type of joke can only trick little children." After seeing Li Qiye dripping his blood onto the palm print, the Vinepill King exploded in laughter.

Ridiculing Li Qiye before everyone allowed him to recover a bit of face.

A genius cultivator snorted and shook his head to say: “Ah, earlier, he was spouting some really outrageous stuff, so I thought he actually had some earth-shattering method. Who would expect for him to play this game of blood acceptance? Which village did this brat come from? To actually try this trick... Has he never seen the real world before?”

“Just an ignorant brat, nothing more.” At this time, the Lion Young King sneered and continued to beat the drowning dog: “Immortal Emperor Wan Shi left behind a supreme mystery, an invincible secret art, a treasure...”

However, after Li Qiye completed the blood rite and placed his palm onto the print, a buzzing sound could be heard. At this second, overflowing strands of light came out from the print and rushed into Li Qiye’s palm like tidal waves.

“Buzzz—” A series of metallic sounds resounded as these lights encompassed both of Li Qiye’s hands and turned into an old pair of gloves that emitted an ancient luster.

“What...” Before the Lion Young King could finish his mocking, this scene had already occurred, causing his mouth to open wide. He became unable to speak.

In fact, all the spectators were currently dumbfounded and stared at Li Qiye in a daze. They all felt that this moment was too unbelievable. Their mouths were big enough to cram a goose egg inside, and they couldn’t close them for a very long time due to their astonishment.

Even the madam stood there looking silly. She couldn't believe it; this was too irrational. How could such a thing happen?

However, what was considered impossible by all had become reality. Everyone on Dao-sense Peak at this moment witnessed it with their own eyes and felt that it was too devilish.

“This... is unreal... it, was it really that simple?” A person simply couldn't believe what they saw and thought that it was only his own vague and unclear sight.

However, one person could make this mistake, but it was impossible for everyone to have the same illusion all at once. This matter actually happened.

Everyone struggled to regain their sanity. Those who laughed at Li Qiye earlier felt their faces burning up. Li Qiye's actions was simply a violent slap to their faces.

“This is so... irrational... Didn't the emperor leave behind a supreme secret art? Why, why did it turn out to be a treasure? Moreover, moreover, it is uncovered by the old trick of blood acceptance?” Even after calming down, an older cultivator still found this whole thing to be inconceivable.

Chapter 693: God's Hands

Ever since the Desolate Era, legends had always dictated that Immortal Emperor Wan Shi left behind a secret art or even his entire legacy at this place. A treasure map was also a possible outcome.

Because of this, countless people and geniuses came to unravel the mystery left behind by the emperor. They tried to sense any changes within the cliff and felt a certain fluctuation, which was believed to be the remnant of an imperial aura.

However, who would have thought that the emperor left behind a treasure instead of any of the three listed in the legends?! Taking a step back, even if people predicted that it was a treasure, who would have thought about the simplest method to obtain it?

A blood acceptance rite had been done before. Most of the time, this method would only be used by ancestors to leave behind items to their descendants. Only the descendants with their bloodline would be able to successfully perform this rite.

In fact, very few people would use this old trick. Moreover, Immortal Emperor Wan Shi was an amazing emperor and the first of the golems who brought about a new era for his race. Such an emperor would more or less leave behind a trial to test the future generations for them to obtain his inheritance. For example, a test for talent or intelligence, or perhaps a test of the dao heart...? Only by passing through these tests would one be able to obtain the treasure. This would have been more the style of an emperor, unlike using the laziest method that resembled a joke — a blood

acceptance rite.

A famed emperor left behind a treasure for the future generations, and those who were destined would obtain it, but he actually used the most old-fashioned and simple method for them to get it. This was complete nonsense!

“Immortal Emperor Wan Shi... Wan Shi.” Li Qiye chuckled while looking at the gloves in his hands.

To the world, an Immortal Emperor had unrivaled prestige and was unreachable. However, Li Qiye, who had lived for many ages, knew that Immortal Emperor Wan Shi was special among the emperors, just like his name, Wan Shi. To mischievously trick the people of this world — this was the real meaning behind the name [Wan Shi](#).

Okay, Wan = mischievous; obstinate; to play; stupid; stubborn; naughty. Shi = life; age; generation; era; world; lifetime. However, the true meaning Li Qiye said here is a four-word phrase — Wan Xi Ren Shi, meaning Mischievously Trick the People of the World. Ren means human, so Ren + Shi = everyone/people.

The emperor left behind a treasure not to test the future generations, it was simply him playing around on a whim.

Li Qiye had come here before. Throughout the ages, Li Qiye had seen many mysteries and treasures, so after looking at this cliff, he knew that this place hid a treasure and not a supreme technique like what was recorded in the legends.

However, at that time, Li Qiye was also puzzled at the reason why the emperor left behind a treasure here. Later on, he had something else to do and didn't stay behind to research this any further. It wasn't until much later when Li Qiye, in his Dark Crow form, thought about all the achievements of the emperor that he understood why the emperor left a treasure behind. He was just casually doing it to mess with the future generations.

Nevertheless, although Li Qiye had come and gone to the Stone Medicine World later on, he still didn't take this treasure away. Eventually, Alpine Mountain finally had a new master once the Alpine Treefather rose to eminence.

Although this treasure was amazing, Li Qiye didn't have time to come take such a treasure. Keep in mind that his treasury in the past had countless treasures.

Li Qiye looked at the gloves with enjoyment, then he glanced at the group of the Lion Young King and Pillvine King while nonchalantly saying: "Earlier, who said that this was a country bumpkin's method? In the end, who is the real idiot for not even being able to see through such a method? Boasting in front of me with such meager intelligence, talking about the immensity of the heaven and earth and a frog in a well... If I'm a frog in a well, then you who can't even see through such a simple method aren't even qualified to be the insects stomped beneath my feet."

Li Qiye's mouth had always been vicious and especially unforgiving to his enemies.

At this time, many people's faces were burning up since they

laughed at Li Qiye earlier. Now, they were met with a slap to their faces. This kind of karma came biting back a bit too soon...

“Hmph, a frog in a well is a frog in a well.” At this time, the Lion Young King snorted and coldly said: “It is only one treasure, why the need to act so triumphantly? What’s the big deal?”

To the young king, his feud with Li Qiye had already been established, so he thought of this argument to vent his anger.

“Is that so?” Li Qiye leered at the lion king. If this nonsensical thing wanted to provoke him, then he would be very happy to teach him a good lesson. Li Qiye leisurely said: “Just this one treasure... I’m afraid that even if your bullshit Lion Country mustered all of its strength, it still wouldn’t be able to find a treasure like this!”

“Such presumptuousness!” The young king’s expression greatly changed. He was the ruler of a country but was now being slapped in the face by this nobody — how could he swallow this anger? He sneered and said: “Ignorant brat, you think you are the best just because you obtained one treasure? I’ll teach you a lesson in your parents’ stead so that you will learn that just because you obtained an amazing treasure, an ant like you is still trash...”

“Come.” Before the young king could finish, Li Qiye gestured with his finger towards the king and said: “If you want to fight with me, then good, today, I’ll beat you so that even your mother will not be able to recognize you.”

This provocation enraged the young king. With a fierce expression, he shouted: “Ignorant brat, I will have your head today!”

The moment these words came out, a blood energy rose like a tide and covered the sky.

In this split second, the young king took action with a lion-like roar. His fingers turned into a claw and he pounced towards Li Qiye like a lion. It was as if this claw wanted to devour Li Qiye with just one bite.

“Scram!” Li Qiye didn’t even bat an eye against this devouring claw from the young king. He kept his palms together and, in an instant, the gloves turned into a heavenly seal that emitted divine universal laws as if the gods were descending to earth. An endless divine aura swept through the world with great ferocity.

“Bang!” After a loud collision, one could hear the sounds of bones breaking. The young king’s entire arm turned into a mist of blood under the attack of the heavenly seal. He couldn’t even scream before he was blown out of Allpine Mountain, disappearing into the horizon with an unknown fate.

This happened too quickly for the spectators to respond. One had to know that the young king was the ruler of a country. Even if he was not as strong as Madam Zi Yan, he was still an amazing expert. However, his arm was destroyed in just one move, and he himself was thrown out of Allpine Mountain. How terrifying was this attack?

“Buzzz.” After blowing the young king away, the heavenly seal disappeared as the gloves, with an ancient luster, emerged once again on Li Qiye’s hands.

A character from the older generation was shocked after seeing such a scene. He took a deep breath and murmured: “An incredible artifact...”

“[God’s Hands](#).” Li Qiye looked at the gloves and smirked to say: “A fully justified reputation, not bad at all.”

The name is actually Hands Of The Gods to be more specific. Gods is purposefully plural here in the Chinese version, but I think God’s Hands is shorter and sounds better in English versus Hands Of The Gods each time.

After some gasps, all eyes immediately fell on Li Qiye’s gloves. When Li Qiye attacked earlier, it was as if the gods had descended along with their sweeping divine aura. Everyone then understood that these gloves were unfathomable and were definitely an earth-shattering treasure. Because of this, piercing gazes became fixated on the gloves as everyone had a look of lust.

“The treasure left behind by Immortal Emperor Wan Shi is amazing.” Another murmured.

Although the Lion Young King looked down on Li Qiye’s gloves earlier, everyone now knew that these gloves definitely had an unbelievable origin. Just think about it, who was Immortal Emperor Wan Shi? He was an invincible emperor, the first of the

golems!

How could an existence of this level leave behind a simple treasure? It definitely had an amazing origin, it could even be his Immortal Emperor Life Treasure!

After thinking to this point, countless people salivated. If there wasn't for their hesitation, some might have already rushed forward to rob it.

At this time, Li Qiye slowly glanced over at everyone, and his eyes stopped on the Vinepill King. He chuckled and said: "So? You were not convinced earlier, do you want to provoke me as well?"

The Vinepill King immediately grimaced after hearing this provocation. However, the Lion Young King had set an example, so he couldn't help but involuntarily step backward.

However, he immediately halted his retreat. As someone from an imperial lineage, being afraid of Li Qiye was akin to shaming the Heavenhoof Ravine.

The king stepped forward with a straight posture and revealed a sneer: "Relying on Immortal Emperor Wan Shi's treasure to show off, what is so great about that? I am an alchemist, if you are so amazing, then compete with me with the dao of alchemy."

"Alchemy dao?" Li Qiye glanced at him and couldn't help but smirk.

Li Qiye's smirk left Madam Zi Yan quietly shaking her head. The Vinepill King was only bringing humiliation to himself. Competing with her Young Master in the dao of alchemy? This was simply displaying one's slight skill before a true master!

The Vinepill King noticed that Li Qiye didn't answer immediately, causing him to be even more confident. He arched his chest while glaring at Li Qiye and provoked him: "Oh? Are you afraid? Didn't you want to represent the Giant Bamboo Country for the alchemy conference? Since you are an alchemist, come compete on the dao of alchemy then. Heh, that conference is where all the gifted alchemists of the three realms gather. If you are nervous now, then don't bother going to the conference since you would only be humiliating the Giant Bamboo Country."

At this point, the Vinepill king became even more aggressive. He thought that Li Qiye didn't dare to compete, so his confidence was through the roof. And even if Li Qiye dared to accept the challenge, he was not afraid of a no-named alchemist like Li Qiye.

Although the Heavenhoof Ravine was not as adept as the Alchemy Kingdom regarding the dao of alchemy, as a dual emperors sect, it still had powerful alchemists, so their achievements in this regard were considerable.

Chapter 694: Alchemy Materials On The Line

The Pillvine King's original form was an alchemy vine that was fueled by natural fire to become a demon, thus his flame controlling skill was amazing. Because of this, he was innately gifted in learning the dao of alchemy.

It could be said that he had obtained the main teachings from the alchemists of the ravine. Although he was not as good as the four great prodigies, such as Yuan Caihe, his fame was still great among the younger generation.

Because of this, he dared to challenge Li Qiye with regards to the dao of alchemy.

At this time, all cultivators looked at Li Qiye. Using the dao of alchemy to settle a feud was very common in the Stone Medicine World. Whether it was using pill refinement or alchemy theories to determine victory, competitions such as these were a daily occurrence.

This was something unique to the Stone Medicine World where alchemists had great prestige.

“Since there is someone who really wants to see my dao of alchemy, very well, we can have a little competition.” Li Qiye smiled and casually flipped his palm. With a little clatter, the gloves came off his hands.

These gloves emitted an ancient luster as if it was crafted from bronze. At this time, Li Qiye nonchalantly threw the gloves over to the madam and said: “The name of these gloves is God’s Hands. It is not just a simple artifact, so take your time understanding it. Its value is no lower than any Immortal Emperor Life Treasure.”

After catching the gloves, the madam couldn’t help but become a bit stunned. She didn’t expect for her Young Master to casually gift such a precious item to her.

God’s Hands — just the name alone made it clear on just how unfathomable this pair of gloves were. Just like Li Qiye had said, it was not weaker than any Immortal Emperor Life Treasure. Just how precious was this treasure?

Although a life treasure was far less valuable than an Immortal Emperor True Treasure, it was still priceless. Not to mention sects without one at all, even imperial lineages would treat each of these treasures like a baby; they wouldn’t casually use them.

But now, Li Qiye gave the madam a treasure of this level without any consideration just because she was by his side as if it was a mere insignificant piece of cabbage.

All of a sudden, not just the madam, many people here were startled. Such an extravagant and flashy move could scare people to death. To give away a life treasure of the emperor level to someone else... They most likely had never seen such a prodigal son before. Even a descendant of an imperial lineage wouldn’t be

able to reach this matchless, wasteful level!

At this time, many people were very envious of the madam. This was a treasure comparable to an Immortal Emperor Life Treasure! Now, they all understood a little bit about why the madam thought so highly of this no-name junior.

If it was someone else, then even if they were loyal for an entire lifetime, they still wouldn't be able to obtain a great treasure like this.

The madam quickly regained her composure and quietly accepted the God's Hands. Although she didn't say anything else, there was a boundless sense of gratitude in her heart.

At this time, Li Qiye glanced at the Vinepill King and lazily said: "Alright, alchemy competition, how do you want to do it?"

Meanwhile, the Vinepill King saw the madam putting away the God's Hands and couldn't help but swallow a mouthful of saliva. This was an item of the Immortal Emperor Life Treasure level, and as a disciple of an imperial lineage, he naturally understood the value of one.

Despite being a disciple, he had no chance of getting one. In the ravine, the only person who could have one among the younger generation was the Golden Crown Prince. So now, after seeing the madam with the God's Hands, how could he not salivate?

The Vinepill King struggled to look away from the gloves. Then, he took a deep breath and sneered after hearing Li Qiye: “Of course it will be fate pills for an alchemy competition. Do you dare to add some bets?”

Li Qiye remained at ease while looking at the king and smilingly responded: “Bets? What kind of bets?”

With a very solemn mood, the Vinepill King took out a medicine box and deepened his tone towards Li Qiye: “We will refine a fate pill cauldron. Whoever does it better will be the winner. I have here a 1.5 million year old Young King Medicine. If you win, then this root will belong to you, do you dare to make this bet?!”

Having said that, he opened the box and a medicinal fragrance came out. Anyone here who smelled this aroma of herbs would immediately feel as if they were walking on air.

“This is a stone flower, a 1.5 million year old medicine — exceedingly rare. The flower of a Young King Medicine such as this is the finest ingredient to refine longevity medicines!” Many cultivators here were also alchemists. Among them, an older one couldn’t help but voice his praise after seeing this particular flower.

“This stone flower is also called a Young Immortal Medicine... Just how precious is one this old?” Many people here watched on carefully while the alchemists were full of admiration and greed.

For alchemists, especially the younger ones, it was not easy for

them to have contact with these one million year old spirit medicines, especially one as rare as a stone flower which was even more precious.

Meanwhile, the Vinepill King felt rather proud, so he provoked Li Qiye again: “Of course, if you are afraid of not being able to handle losing or you don’t have a Young King Medicine to meet the bet, then you can give me those gloves instead. I will accept them as well.”

Without a doubt, the Vinepill King was consumed with his desire for the God’s Hands. Of course, the value of a Young King Medicine was insufficient to trade for the God’s Hands.

“Wishful thinking.” Li Qiye was too lazy to look at the fella and said: “Since you want to have a bet, let me add to it. I have a spirit medicine root here, so I’ll use it as my bet.”

Having said that, he also took out a medicine box.

“What kind of spirit medicine?” The Vinepill King didn’t pay it any mind nor did he bother looking at it. From his perspective, what kind of medicine could a nobody like Li Qiye possibly take out? Coming up with a 300,000 or 500,000 year old medicine was already pushing it.

“Only a silver mapleglass.” Li Qiye took out the box with a nonchalant look as if the spirit medicine inside was very common.

“Although a silver mapleglass is an essential ingredient for refining longevity medicines, in order to have the same value as a stone flower, its spirit must be at least 1.2 million years old. A few hundred thousand year old silver mapleglass cannot compare to a stone flower.” Said an alchemist who shook his head after seeing Li Qiye’s casually taking out his box. Other cultivators looked down on him.

In fact, most of them wondered how could a no-name alchemist like Li Qiye pick any good herbs? Such an alchemist would have already hit the jackpot if he could grab a spirit medicine of 300,000 to 500,000 years of age.

The Vinepill King also assumed that the grass inside Li Qiye’s box was only 500,000 years old at best, so he sneered and said with disdain: “If you are taking out a 300,000 to 500,000 year old silver mapleglass to bet against my stone medicine, then you are truly daydreaming. In my opinion, you should still bet the gloves from earlier—”

However, before he could finish his words, he became entranced while looking at Li Qiye’s box.

At this time, Li Qiye lightly said: “I don’t have a 300,000 or 500,000 year old silver mapleglass. Mine is only around three million years old. Hmm, to be more exact, it is around 3,670,000 years old.”

“What! Three million years...” After hearing these words, all the cultivators here were dumbstruck, especially the alchemists as they looked towards Li Qiye’s medicine box for a second time.

At this time, they saw Li Qiye opening the box whereupon a group of silver lights flew out. The silver maplegrass inside seemed to be cast from the purest silver and was extremely beautiful.

“This... This really is a King Medicine of three to four million years of age. This is the best ingredient for refining longevity medicines, wow!” Many people present were quite discerning, so after recognizing this type of maplegrass, they had to take deep, calming breaths.

“Wow, what an amazing medicine. I, I really have never seen a spirit medicine more than 3,000,000 years old.” A young alchemist swallowed his saliva and felt as if he was dreaming.

The Vinepill King was already stunned speechless. Earlier, he laughed at Li Qiye, but now, his stone medicine with 1.5 million years compared to Li Qiye’s 3.67 million year old grass was like night and day. In fact, it made his stone flower seem particularly cheap.

For him, having a Young King Medicine, even at such a young age, was something to be proud of.

However, Li Qiye actually took out a three million year old king medicine!

This was a priceless treasure to any alchemist. This kind of ingredient would be used exclusively by Virtuous Paragons!

At this point, many looked at the silver mapleglass inside Li Qiye's box with saliva dripping from their mouths. Many of them would have never seen such a king medicine root in their lifetime.

"A king medicine... The best silver mapleglass I have seen was only one of 2.8 million years of age..." An older alchemist here couldn't help but salivate.

Prior to this, others were looking down on a nobody like Li Qiye. But now, he casually took out a three million year old king medicine, causing others to wipe their eyes and take a second glance. No one would have thought that an inconspicuous alchemist like him would have such great wealth. This made them curious about the origin of this Li Qiye whose name didn't ring a bell.

The madam sitting next to him was also slightly speechless. She knew that Li Qiye's actions would scare people to death. Back at the Golem Square, he casually threw around loads of money, but she didn't expect him to be able to take out a king medicine so easily.

Moreover, he was acting as if this was not a king medicine root, but more like a radish — not enough to reach the apex. This nonchalant expression would make anyone feel that they were looking at the most peerless prodigal son in history.

Chapter 695: A King Medicine Is Only A Radish Or Cabbage

“Do you still want to bet?” At this point, Li Qiye leisurely looked at the Vinepill King with a relaxed and cool expression.

All of a sudden, the Vinepill King became beet red and felt himself burning up. The stone flower was already the best spirit medicine in his possession.

Although he came from the Heavenhoof Ravine and was greatly valued by the elders, he was a young disciple of the third generation. How could someone like him possibly take out a king medicine root so easily?

At this time, the Vinepill King had already mounted the tiger so he couldn't get off. As a Heavenhoof disciple, if he chose to give up against an unknown alchemist, how could he have the face to live on? Even if he was confident in his pill refinement skill and wanted to make this bet, he couldn't produce a satisfactory king medicine, thus all of this was meaningless.

“A king medicine, right? It is not like our Heavenhoof Ravine doesn't have one.” At this time, a different voice came along that held great authority inside the valley: “[Teng'er](#), make the bet with him.”

Teng must be his name, meaning Vine.

“So it is an elder from the ravine.” Many cultivators changed

their expressions after hearing this voice. They didn't expect for this type of bet to actually disturb a Heavenhoof elder.

“Thank you, Master.” The Vinepill King became ecstatic after hearing this voice and quickly bowed towards the direction where the voice came from. With his master as his backing, he became a lot bolder.

Sure enough, in the blink of an eye, a Heavenhoof disciple hurriedly came and handed a medicine box over. After opening the box, one would find that it was also a silver mapleglass.

“A silver mapleglass of three million years of age and my stone flower to bet against your 3.67 million year old mapleglass.” At this time, the Vinepill King pushed the two medicine boxes forward. He wanted to use these two roots to bet for Li Qiye's grass.

Although it seemed like the Vinepill King got the short end of the deal by using two to bet for one, this was not the case at all. The older the king medicine, the more precious it was. Sometimes, the price would even double.

“How about I join in as well?” At this time, a proud voice appeared. One person stepped forward and instantly appeared in front of everyone.

He carried an imposing and majestic momentum. It was Huangfu Hao, who was beaten in the alchemy garden of the Giant Bamboo Country. However, judging from his current appearance, his

wounds had healed since his blood energy was great and he walked with a powerful pace.

Li Qiye's arched his brows and dismissively said: "What, the last lesson was not enough? You still dare to come here to provoke me? This is indeed very brave!"

Huangfu Hao's expression immediately soured after being quipped by Li Qiye. These words were simply exposing his scars once more. He had already been beaten by Li Qiye twice. The first was back at the Golem Square when Li Qiye threw away money, leaving him out of breath. The other time was back at the alchemy garden; he initially wanted to suppress Li Qiye, but who would have thought that he would be blown flying out of the capital? If it wasn't for his ancestor who personally came out to help him, maybe he would still be lying in bed at this time.

This matter was truly humiliating to Huangfu Hao. He coldly glared at Li Qiye with bloodthirst in his eyes and awe-inspiringly said: "[If I wanted you dead by midnight, you would definitely not make it past dawn.](#)"

A chinese saying. To be more accurate, it is the hour of chen, which is 7-9 am or morning, but dawn sounds better? I don't know what time is consider sunrise for the old chinese system when this phrase came out either.

Whether it was business or personal, Huangfu Hao had an irrefutable feud with Li Qiye. Li Qiye didn't only humiliate him, he also killed many people from his clan, including an ancestor. Their clan would definitely never let it go unless they used Li Qiye's blood to wash away this disgrace.

Because of this, Huangfu Hao made no effort of hiding his murderous intent. If it wasn't for the treefather's birthday, he would have already tried to kill Li Qiye at this moment.

"You are right, if I wanted you dead by midnight, you would definitely not make it past dawn." Li Qiye leisurely smiled and said: "Remember this phrase well."

"Good." Huangfu Hao leered while revealing a cold glint and laughed aggressively before speaking: "Then how about you and I bet our lives on this? Off with the loser's head!"

Without a doubt, Huangfu Hao came to take Li Qiye's life this time. If he couldn't publicly kill Li Qiye, then using a bet to kill Li Qiye was another method.

Although many alchemists would use an alchemy competition to settle feuds, they would rarely bet their lives unless it was a blood feud.

"Bet with our lives?" Li Qiye looked at Huangfu Hao with one eye and chuckled before replying: "You think too highly of yourself. My life is very precious, priceless even. You actually want to bet my life with your worthless existence? Even if you had ten lives, they would still not be as precious as mine."

Li Qiye never minced words against his enemies; he would ruthlessly beat them to death verbally.

“You...” Huangfu Hao turned beet red from anger as his eyes glared at Li Qiye.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye was too lazy to look at him. He dismissively said: “In my eyes, your worthless life is not even comparable to a king medicine. Don’t think too highly of yourself. How many meager coins is your life actually worth?”

Li Qiye’s vicious words left Huangfu Hao wanting to vomit blood from rage as his entire body shivered, but Li Qiye didn’t really care about him. Li Qiye gently waved his sleeve and lightly said: “If you can’t take out any treasures for the bet, then get the hell out of here. Don’t disturb my bet with someone else. I still want to give this Heavenhoof or whatever a good slap.”

Li Qiye’s words left everyone here speechless. They all felt that this fella was too arrogant. Offending the Huangfu Clan was one thing, but he now offended the entire ravine as well. It was as if he wanted to offend everyone in the world!

“Good, good, very good, little animal. I will spare your life and let you hold onto your head for a while longer.” Huangfu Hao coldly uttered: “Then I will bet with you. I was just afraid you wouldn’t be able to take out another king medicine root, that’s all.”

Having said that, he also took out a medicine box. The moment he opened it, one could see a knotweed plant inside. The medicinal fragrance that permeated the air gave others a refreshing feeling as if they were being cleansed.

“3.5 million year old knotweed.” Huangfu Hao sneered and said: “If you can’t take out another king medicine, then I won’t mind if you bet with your worthless life.”

Huangfu Hao was more focused on humiliating Li Qiye to quell his anger. Taking his dog life could wait for later.

“A king knotweed, amazing.” The cultivators here were astonished to see such a plant here. One person couldn’t help but exclaim: “The Huangfu Clan’s wealth is definitely commendable, truly worthy of being an alchemy clan.”

For many alchemists, especially those of humble birth, they wouldn’t be able to obtain a spirit medicine like this particular king medicine even if they tried their whole life.

However, it was different for someone like Huangfu Hao. He was the descendant of the Huangfu Clan and had a high status. Moreover, the clan was a famous alchemy clan with great power and wealth. Moreover, it also had a marriage alliance with the Alchemy Kingdom, which had control over the best vein for growing spirit medicines in the entire Stone Medicine World.

Because of these reasons, many people thought that it was not too surprising for Huangfu Hao to be able to take out this king medicine.

All of a sudden, all the cultivators here held their breaths. More and more were gathering here at Dao-sense Peak, wanting to watch

the exciting event.

“Well, I can’t really take out another king medicine at this moment.” Li Qiye glanced over at Huangfu Hao and waved his hand to say: “How about a different item?”

“And I thought you were extremely rich.” At this time, the Vinepill King snorted and said: “Arrogant fool, boasting with just one king medicine. Today, you will learn just how rich this world really is compared to you.”

“Just use your worthless life as the bet instead.” Huangfu Hao mocked: “Today, I’ll take the short end of the stick; I’m willing to use this king medicine root in exchange for your dog life.”

[“I wanted to show some consideration, but you just had to push it.”](#) Li Qiye slowly said: “I don’t have something like a king medicine in my stash right now, but I have something else.”

The first sentence would only make sense in Chinese, so I localized it. The literal translation is “I spared you some colors, but you immediately want to open a dye shop.” This won’t make much sense in English, right? Color here is the shade of an expression, or face.

Having said that, he took out another medicine box. The moment this box was opened, a blood energy shot out straight towards everyone’s faces. A series of sounds came about as a spirit medicine could be found sealed inside.

The moment someone saw the spirit medicine in the box, he

immediately jumped and exclaimed in horror: “What... What... Is that an imperial medicine?”

At this time, Li Qiye slowly closed the medicine box and said: “Only an impoverished beggar like you would consider spirit king medicines as treasures when they are actually as common as turnips and cabbages. I can’t bring this crap everywhere since it would be too cumbersome. I have here a 5.38 million year old spirit medicine root. Since someone said I couldn’t take out another king medicine, I have no choice but to take this out from the stash to show off a little.”

“Impossible...” The people present became speechless once again in the face of this statement. Just what kind of items were king medicines? To many people, they were priceless treasures. But now, in Li Qiye’s words, they were like cabbages — this was way too overbearing.

But what could you do? This guy truly had the money to show off like this. He just took out an imperial medicine. Moreover, with that nonchalant appearance and the casual unveiling, perhaps even imperial medicines were only cabbages in his hands. With such great wealth, he could act arrogant no matter where he went.

Huangfu Hao’s expression became extremely unsightly, but he couldn’t do anything about it. Even as the descendant of the Huangfu Clan, taking out this king medicine was already his limit. Moreover, this root was meant to be a gift for his female cousin, Ming Yexue of the Alchemy Kingdom. He wanted to earn her favor, but today, he had to pull it out to use as a bet.

Nevertheless, he was confident in winning this gamble. However, his confidence was no good as he was now rendered breathless by Li Qiye taking out an imperial medicine.

At the same time, the Vinepill King was both envious and overwhelmed with animosity. His eyes couldn't help but turn red from indescribable jealousy. Keep in mind that he was a disciple from the Heavenhoof Ravine! A sect with two emperors! But he, as its disciple, was not even equal to a no-named alchemist, so how could he not go crazy from jealousy?

If this wasn't Allpine Mountain, the Vinepill King would have already rushed over to capture Li Qiye alive and seize all of his spirit medicines.

Chapter 696: Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint

“Spectacular, an imperial medicine...” All of a sudden, the stunned crowd looked at Li Qiye as if they were looking at a ghost. Their faces all had indescribable expressions.

“Damn, I have never seen an imperial medicine before. Who would expect to see one here? This is so unbelievable.” An old alchemist couldn’t help but curse.

In an instant, an endless amount of saliva dripped down to the ground from the spectators. They couldn’t be blamed because even characters of the ancestor level would be driven crazy by an imperial medicine root. Roots of this level were invaluable and were even out of the ancestors’ reach, let alone other people.

“All of your king medicines together would still not be worth as much as my one imperial medicine. However, seeing as how both of you want to bet, I’ll entertain you. Money is fine, spirit medicines are okay too. I have too much money to spend, but I’m more afraid that you two won’t have enough to make this bet.” Li Qiye ruthlessly uttered these words without any mercy.

Prior to this, others might have thought that Li Qiye was ignorant, but those thoughts were quickly dispelled. Although many people remained unconvinced, they had to admit that this brat had the money to act in such a haughty manner.

Madam Zi Yan, standing next to Li Qiye, could only wryly smile. At this point, nothing could surprise her anymore. From her

perspective, her Young Master's wealth was even greater than an entire country.

Huangfu Hao, who initially wanted to use this opportunity to humiliate Li Qiye then kill him afterward, didn't expect to — once again — be humiliated by Li Qiye, causing him to nearly vomit blood from anger.

“I will lend a helping hand to Young Noble Huangfu.” At this time, a hoarse voice came out, signaling the arrival of an old man. Next to him were other experts.

This old man took out a medicine box and slowly said: “I have a king medicine over 4 million years of age. This might be of assistance to Young Noble Huangfu.”

“It is the Alchemy Saint of the Radiant-Sea Sect!” Exclaimed someone who recognized this old man's identity.

A lot of people then shifted their gaze over to this old man. His identity was quite prestigious since he was the best alchemist from the Radiant-Sea Sect, the one known as the Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint.

“Brother Huangfu, give this little animal a good beating.” At this time, a woman standing by the Alchemy Saint spoke coldly.

This woman was the Dragon Princess from the Radiant-Sea Sect. At this moment, she needed help to walk, so one could imagine just

how serious her injury was from the bull's kick. If it wasn't for their Alchemy Saint personally going to save her, she would have been bedridden if not dead.

Her hatred for Li Qiye was bone-deep, so when Huangfu Hao and the Vinepill King wanted to fight Li Qiye, how could their Radiant-Sea Sect miss such an opportunity?

“Very well.” Li Qiye dismissively glanced at them and said: “Out of consideration for your poverty, your three king medicines and the stone flower versus my imperial medicine will suffice.”

Although Huangfu Hao's group had more spirit medicines, king medicines couldn't compare to an imperial medicine; its name signified that it was used exclusively by Immortal Emperors. Although this was not the case, it was enough to illustrate its value.

The Dragon Princess coldly uttered: “Foolish thing, don't repudiate once you lose or we'll take your dog life instead!” Oh how she wished to taste Li Qiye's flesh and blood due to this burning hatred.

Li Qiye didn't bother giving the princess a glimpse and instead dismissively said: “You won't be able to beat me, and even if you could, it is only one imperial medicine. They're no different from some cabbages, so why would I need to renege on this bet? Only impoverished people like all of you wouldn't be able to afford to lose.”

This silenced everyone present once more. The Huangfu Clan, the Radiant-Sea Sect, and the Heavenhoof Ravine; all of these lineages had frightening wealth. But now, in Li Qiye's words, they had been reduced to poverty-stricken lineages.

However, no one here was willing to dispute this. Whose fault was it that this unknown brat Li Qiye was so chaotically rich? Even if others were annoyed with him, they had no choice but to be convinced. What else was there to say to such a prodigal son?

The Dragon Princess was shaking with anger and gnashed her teeth. Her eyes revealed an awe-inspiring glint with terrifying murderous intent.

"Cease your insults." Huangfu Hao coldly uttered: "Since the bets have been placed, let's get on with it. Today, I want you to lose to the point of no return!"

Killing Li Qiye alone would not appease the hatred in his heart. Only by killing him after great humiliation would he be able to find solace.

Li Qiye arched his brows and nonchalantly said without a care: "Let's do it then. Pill refinement, right? I'll do it. Will the two of you challenge me, or will you choose a representative?"

"How about Brother Huangfu go?" The Vinepill King hesitated for a moment and said: "Brother Huangfu's dao of alchemy is peerless, so as long as you display your skill, you will be able to be utterly obliterate this type of nobody."

The Vinepill King was indeed capable regarding alchemy, but Huangfu Hao was much more famous since he was called the fifth alchemy prodigy; he was only a bit weaker than the other four.

Although this kind of title was a bit on the side of flattery, in the Vinepill King's eyes, the Radiant-Sea Sect was helping Huangfu Hao, thus his side should be even more serious about the bet. Because of this, he elected Huangfu Hao to be the one to challenge Li Qiye.

“Brother Huangfu is the fifth alchemy prodigy, how could it be enough to just defeat this nobody? Brother Huangfu, let him see your Huangfu Clan's supreme dao of alchemy.” The Dragon Princess also supported Huangfu Hao trying his hand.

Huangfu Hao stepped forward and coldly glared at Li Qiye while aggressively speaking: “Little animal, I'm afraid your good luck has run out! Today, I will let you taste complete defeat.”

Huangfu Hao was also completely confident. In his view, very few people among the younger generation could compete with him in the dao of alchemy. He was proud of the fact that outside of the four prodigies, no other would be worthy of his consideration.

As in-laws of the Alchemy Kingdom, the Huangfu Clan had also obtained a lot of benefits that improved their dao of alchemy and allowed them to have some great achievements in this regard.

Thus, to Huangfu Hao at this moment, defeating Li Qiye in the

field of pill refinement was an easy matter. He decided that he would first humiliate Li Qiye before killing him.

Li Qiye ignored him and lazily asked: “You talk too much, let’s begin already. How shall we do this?”

“Fate pill refinement, we’ll settle this bet using a five transformations fate pill refinement!” Huangfu Hao sneered: “Only one cauldron opening. Whoever refines a batch with greater quantity and quality will be the winner!”

“Okay, fate pill refinement it is.” Li Qiye acted without a care as if this matter was not enough to reach the apex.

Li Qiye’s attitude made Huangfu Hao scowl with a fierce gaze. He would definitely show Li Qiye a good time.

He calmed down and told the group of the Vinepill King: “I need four batches of ingredients for five transformations fate pills. I only have one batch, do you all have more?”

The Vinepill King looked at his stash and said: “I also have one batch for a five transformations fate pill.”

The Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint calmly said: “I will help good nephew out with two batches to defeat this ignorant junior. Teach him a good lesson.”

In just a moment, Huangfu Hao was able to gather four batches of

ingredients for five transformations fate pills.

The people present were jolted after seeing Huangfu Hao wanting four batches, even the older alchemists were no exceptions.

An alchemist from the previous generation emotionally wondered: “One cauldron but four batches of ingredients, could it be that Young Noble Huangfu could form four contraptions within one cauldron?”

“Four contraptions would not necessarily be difficult for a good Heavenly Cauldron. However, it is not easy to refine fate pill contraptions in just one cauldron. Plus, these are five transformations fate pills, not one transformation.” Even skillful alchemists changed their expressions after seeing Huangfu Hao’s desire to try four batches of ingredients at once.

Anyone with a little common sense would know that each cauldron could only produce one fate pill. To be more precise, the fire source could form one fire contraption to refine one fate pill.

Of course, better Heavenly Cauldrons were able to form more than just one fire contraption, especially those used by Legendary Alchemists and Alchemy Emperors. This type of cauldron would be able to form several contraptions, and rumor has it that an Alchemy Emperor’s cauldron could even form more than ten fire contraptions.

However, the number of fire contraptions formed from the Heavenly Cauldron didn’t mean that the user would be able to

refine that many fate pills at the same time. Controlling several fire contraptions required an extremely powerful mastery of fire from the alchemist. Moreover, this alone was not enough to refine several batches within one cauldron. The alchemist would also require a deep and profound understanding of the alchemy dao. For higher level pills, these contraptions became even harder to control and refine.

“Okay, open your dog eyes wide for me to clearly see a master at work.” At this time, Huangfu Hao sneered at Li Qiye as he stomped once on the ground and summoned a Heavenly Cauldron.

With a buzz, a cauldron fell down and enlarged. This cauldron resembled an entrenched White Tiger sucking and spewing out strands of crimson flames. The moment these fiery strands jumped up and down, the cauldron seemed to become a volcano that could erupt at any moment.

“A really powerful Heavenly Cauldron.” Many cultivators here couldn’t help but quiver after feeling the aura of this cauldron. Even those who weren’t knowledgeable about this subject knew that this cauldron was incredible.

“This is the legendary cauldron of the Huangfu Clan. It was once called the family’s defining treasure. People have said that this cauldron had accepted an augmenting ceremony from an Alchemy Emperor.” Of course, there were also knowledgeable alchemists at the scene. One became emotional and immediately recognized the origin of this cauldron.

At this point, the cauldron poured down a vast radiance that

covered its entire body. This was a very common situation and was usually referred to as the screening — the act of a Heavenly Cauldron to keep outsiders from peering.

Any good Heavenly Cauldron had the ability to screen. As an alchemist, they naturally didn't want outsiders to look at their pill refinement technique, so the screening of a cauldron was without a doubt the best and most convenient method to prevent prying eyes.

Chapter 697: Sleeping On A Beauty's Lap

If some cauldrons lacked the screening ability, then the alchemists would use a technique to keep others out and prevent their alchemy art from being stolen.

At this time, everyone gazed at the cauldron ahead with bated breaths, especially the younger alchemists who were even more attentive.

Although the screen was up and everyone couldn't discern Huangfu Hao's pill refinement method, for alchemists, especially those that came from weak sects or those who were unknowledgeable in the dao of alchemy, just standing to the side and observing a better alchemist was already quite fruitful. Although they couldn't look at the refinement techniques, they could still look at the process to gain experience and avoid future mistakes while doing their own refinement.

“Pop!” At this time, Huangfu Hao pushed down on the cauldron and, in an instant, a divine flame escaped from inside to form four fire contraptions. It could be said that the entire process was smooth and swift as if he was very skilled and familiar with it.

There were many knowledgeable alchemists here, so even though they couldn't see Huangfu Hao's fire controlling technique, they knew by judging the instantaneous formation of the contraptions that his fire controlling technique was very powerful and should have an amazing history.

“Brother Huangfu is very amazing. Just his flame mastery alone is already hard to match among the younger generation.” The Vinepill King looked at the situation and voiced his praise.

Even Huangfu Hao couldn't help but become a bit excited after being praised by the Vinepill King. This was someone who became enlightened thanks to natural fire, so he had an innate understanding of fire control with his own amazing techniques. Obtaining his praise could be considered an honor.

At this time, Huangfu Hao threw in the spirit medicines into the fire contraptions in a particular order. All four contraptions started the refinement process at the same time. He was very experienced with the entire process, so it was apparent that he came prepared.

Alchemists would often have alchemy helpers to throw in the materials. When they were still at a low level, they would have these helpers since their skill was not high enough. Controlling the flame required their full attention, so they couldn't afford to be distracted by adding the materials.

After becoming stronger, they could start to refine a fate pill batch by themselves. Of course, there were still powerful alchemists, even Alchemy Emperors, who chose to have helpers. Naturally, helpers at this level were very powerful in their own rights. Outside of helping the pill refinement process, they also acted as protectors for the alchemists.

After all, the pills refined by powerful Alchemy Emperors had frightening, greed-inciting value, so they required the protection

of extremely powerful helpers.

The fire inside the contraptions danced around as if they had their own life. With time, there were occasional hums as if a pill was about to form.

At this time, everyone forgot about time itself and gazed at Huangfu Hao performing his refinement. They, especially the alchemists, all looked at each of his actions carefully without missing the slightest detail.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye had zero interest in Huangfu Hao's pill refinement. With a single glance, he immediately knew the origin of the branch and sect of Huangfu Hao's skill.

Because of this, during the whole process, Li Qiye didn't bother watching at all. He directly laid down in the carriage and slept. The gentle madam, at that time, quietly placed a fur blanket over him.

Such nice treatment of being served by a great Demon King left many people jealous and envious.

Minutes passed by and finally, the day had finally ended. Huangfu Hao was about to open his cauldron, thus he shouted: "Collect...!"

"Pop!" The contraptions opened and four fate pills flew out. Huangfu Hao immediately used a treasure gourd to collect all of them.

At this time, he finally heaved a sigh of relief and put away his cauldron with great satisfaction. He was very happy with the result of this cauldron.

“Quite extraordinary. He only spent one day to successfully refine five transformations fate pills. Truly worthy of his fame! No wonder why others call him the fifth alchemy prodigy.” An alchemist from the previous generation had to praise Huangfu Hao.

The young alchemists were especially astonished with admiration. To refine this type of pill in just one day was indicative of Huangfu Hao’s great dao of alchemy.

Although many people did not agree with calling him the fifth prodigy, they had to admit that his skill was quite formidable.

At this time, Huangfu Hao took out the four fate pills for others to judge. There were several capable alchemists here, such as the Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint and the Vinepill King along with some older ones. They immediately gathered around to appraise the four pills.

The color of the four pills was different, but the difference was not noticeable. All of them had a similar faint yellow color.

“The quality is quite good. With the faint yellow color, this is high quality. One cauldron produced these four pills, so this quality is already quite good, a very admirable attempt from a

youth who will eventually surpass us.” The Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint appraised it then left this remark.

He was qualified to make such a statement since he was the most powerful alchemist in the Radiant-Sea Sect. Even among the previous generation of alchemists, he was still quite famous.

“Not bad at all, not bad at all. One cauldron for four pills of five transformations with a faint yellow tint. This is exceptional among the younger generation.” The other alchemists also took a look and praised him one after another.

The other young alchemists here couldn’t help but reveal looks of envy. They all felt that at this moment, Huangfu Hao was worthy of his fame. If only they could reach such a level — that would be incredibly amazing.

Huangfu Hao inevitably revealed a gloating look since he was indeed very satisfied with the result of his fate pills.

At this time, Huangfu Hao turned around and coldly said: “Your turn...” However, the moment he saw Li Qiye sleeping in the carriage, his face became quite unsightly.

Meanwhile, Li Qiye didn’t budge at all since he was already asleep. With a contorted face, Huangfu Hao coldly uttered: “Even if you pretend to sleep, you won’t be able to hide from this bet. It is not too late to give up if you want to avoid further humiliation.”

Li Qiye didn't react and was still sleeping in the carriage. At this time, the madam next to him sat down and softly called out: "Young Master, it is your turn."

The beauty's soft call was so gentle that it seemed as if she was afraid of startling Li Qiye.

Seeing this scene, many people almost forgot about the bet and were jealous to an indescribable extent. A beauty was calling for him, moreover, she was a Demon King, a charming ruler of an entire country. What kind of romantic luck was this!

Huangfu Hao became livid as his face turned pale. He couldn't help but shudder. One could even hear the sound of his teeth grinding together. He tightly clenched his fists and swore that he would cease to be a human if he didn't kill Li Qiye.

Huangfu Hao's adoration for the madam was no secret. But now, the madam was being so gentle towards Li Qiye, so how could he not be driven mad?

"He finally finished?" At this time, Li Qiye got up from the carriage with a sleepy appearance. The madam quickly put on his cloak for him lest he became cold. Such careful and thoughtful consideration was truly adorable.

However, many here were extremely annoyed, especially the younger ones who were about to go berserk from jealousy. This brat's life was really too good to enjoy such treatment and service from the madam. There was no justice in this world!

“It is your turn now!” While gnashing his teeth, he slowly uttered each of these words. He swore to take his time when it came to shaming this little animal. He didn’t only want to appease this anger, he also wanted to do so in front of the madam.

“Only a five transformations fate pill cauldron, did you need to take so long? Was that really necessary? Isn’t it just like stir frying a vegetable side dish?” Li Qiye stretched his back and still had a drowsy appearance like before.

“You...” Huangfu Hao was livid from Li Qiye’s attitude. To him, refining a single five transformations fate pill cauldron that produced four pills was already quite amazing. But now, according to Li Qiye, it was an unworthy display.

“Such a big tone!” At this time, the Dragon Princess smirked and went to Huangfu Hao’s rescue as she uttered: “I’m afraid you wouldn’t be able to refine such a batch even in three days!”

“Three days?” Li Qiye was too lazy to look at her. He fixed his belt as if he just got up from bed and slowly said: “To someone as great as me, there is no need for three days. Three seconds is enough to finish one batch like that.”

Li Qiye’s words caused a lot of eyes to roll. No one believed him! Some even burst out in laughter and felt that Li Qiye was boasting to an unbelievable degree. No one had ever been able to refine a fate pill cauldron in just three seconds, not even an Alchemy Emperor!

“Those are some strong words. There should be a limit to your boasting.” The Vinepill King snorted and said with disdain: “Even a reborn Alchemy Emperor wouldn’t be able to refine five transformations fate pills in just three seconds. Hah, you should think carefully before bragging next time.”

“Only an unskilled fool would have blind faith in common sense.” Li Qiye lazily sat on the carriage while he enjoyed the madam fixing his collar and brushing his hair straight.

Li Qiye’s ostentatious manner and enjoyment caused many people to truly hate him. They all shared a thought: ‘This brat is too arrogant and is such an eyesore!’

“You...” The Vinepill King glared at Li Qiye. He wanted to act out, but he endured it instead and snorted before coldly speaking: “I won’t bother with a junior like you. Since you like to bluster so much, then let everyone see how to refine a five transformations fate pill cauldron in three seconds.”

“What is so hard about it?” Li Qiye lightly said: “However, I really don’t have the ingredients to make something like a five transformations fate pill, will anyone lend me a batch?”

“Haha, oh? Looking for an excuse now?” Huangfu Hao sneered: “If you can’t do it, then just say it. Prostrate on the ground and accept defeat, then I might just spare you.”

Huangfu Hao would not give up any chance to attack and

humiliate Li Qiye.

Chapter 698: It Is Only Pill Refinement

Li Qiye essentially paid him no mind as he looked around to the crowd, still as calm and leisurely as ever. He revealed a faint smile and asked: “Does anyone here have alchemy ingredients?”

“I have one batch for five transformations fate pill and can help Young Noble out.” An older alchemist pondered for a moment before handing this batch over to Li Qiye.

At this key moment, there were still people who chose to help Li Qiye. This was not easy since ultimately, Li Qiye was opposing Huangfu Hao’s group.

Nevertheless, although many hated or were jealous of Li Qiye and wished to go against him, there were some old sly foxes who looked at things in a more practical way.

Who was Madam Zi Yan? She was a great Demon King and stronger than Huangfu Hao, yet she was still willing to stay by a no-name junior’s side and serve him. This junior definitely had something special that others couldn’t compare to.

“Hmm, there are still those with eyes in this world.” Li Qiye took this batch of ingredients and smiled to say: “Very well, I will also refine four fate pills. Anyone else have some ingredients for me? Let me borrow three more batches.”

“I also have one.” Another old cultivator hesitated for a moment before speaking out.

“Me too.” A Royal Lord also let Li Qiye borrow one batch. This matter had spread quite far, so many people from the previous generation had come to watch.

At this time, a few countries watching on the sidelines wanted to form an alliance with the Giant Bamboo Country, so this Royal Lord took advantage of this opportunity to perform a favor.

In a very brief period, Li Qiye was able to collect four batches of five transformations fate pill ingredients. Although he was a nobody, there were still spectators who held him in high regard.

Li Qiye received the ingredients and said with a smile: “Those with vision will eventually be rewarded.”

“Hmph. Hurry up if you are going to refine some pills. Don’t just stand there and ramble on. You think delaying the matter can save you from this bet?” Huangfu Hao scowled and sneered.

At this time, Li Qiye got up. He was still as unruffled as before as he coldly glanced at Huangfu Hao before smirking and saying: “It seems that you really want to see me make a fool of myself. But unfortunately, I’m sorry that you will be disappointed. Since you choose to bring your face out like this, I don’t mind giving you a resounding slap.”

“Strong words there.” Before Huangfu Hao could respond, the Vinepill King coldly said: “Wait until after you refine the pills before boasting, yeah? You think just anyone can refine one

cauldron with four pills? You? Haha, you still have a long way to go if you want to beat Brother Huangfu.”

The madam shook her head gently at this retort. She had seen, with her own eyes, Li Qiye’s pill refinement and had absolute confidence in Li Qiye’s skill. Compared to Li Qiye, Huangfu Hao’s pill refinement ability was simply not pleasant to the eye.

“Zi Yan ah, nowadays, a few people really think their meager alchemy skill is peerless in this world.” Li Qiye smiled and told the madam: “If your Young Master doesn’t show a thing or two, these fools won’t ever know what peerless alchemy is. Very well, today, your Young Master will show them what is truly called alchemy!”

“Young Master will surely be victorious.” The madam revealed a faint smile that contained a trace of elegance and nobility along with a gentleness as soft as water.

Huangfu Hao was quite shaken after seeing Li Qiye and the madam’s intimate relationship, so he coldly uttered: “Stop spewing crap, go refine pills if you are so capable. Don’t just sit there and brag!”

“Very well, I’ll refine one cauldron right now.” Li Qiye smiled and stretched his back again before summoning the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron, then he shouted: “Open!”

The cauldron fell down; this was a very ordinary looking cauldron that appeared before everyone. No matter how they looked at it, this cauldron was plain without anything special

about it, completely unlike a precious cauldron at all.

After it was bathed in the lost alchemy garden of the immortals, the cauldron had completely returned to the most primordial state, so outsiders couldn't see its profundity.

“Haha, just a cheap cauldron. How shabby, can this type of cauldron actually refine five transformations fate pills? What wishful thinking.” The Dragon Princess viciously attacked. She and Li Qiye had a irrefutable feud, so how could she forgive him?

But at this time, Li Qiye controlled the cauldron and, in the blink of an eye, he instantly formed four fire contraptions. He then didn't give it a second glance and casually threw all the medicinal ingredients into the fire contraptions.

A series of crackling sounds appeared as if beans were being fried. Before everyone's mind returned from the shock, Li Qiye shouted and instantly collected four finished five transformations fate pills into a treasure gourd.

From the formation of the contraptions to the addition of the ingredients to the completion of the pills, the entire process was all over in the blink of an eye. It was so fast that no one could react in time. Before everyone, Li Qiye didn't try to hide anything, but no one saw his pill refinement technique.

Suddenly, everyone's mouths were wide open. The Dragon Princess who had just uttered her teasing banter couldn't close her mouth since she was blown away on the spot.

Her eyes were wide open as well. No one could believe that this was actually happening; they all thought that either they were seeing things, or it was just an illusion.

Here, outside of Li Qiye, only Madam Zi Yan had a calm air. She already knew that this would be the result since this was not her first time seeing her Young Master's peerless alchemy. In her opinion, no one could compete with him regarding the dao of alchemy in contemporary times. Even the four alchemy prodigies were insufficient compared to him in this regard.

“Am, am I seeing things?” An old alchemist struggled to regain his sanity and told the person next to him: “Hey, pinch me, am I in a dream?”

A scream ensued right after as this alchemist was pinched by the person next to him. He then exclaimed in horror: “This, I'm not seeing things. This isn't a dream!”

Everyone was suddenly woken up by this scream and became shocked and breathless as the entire scene became silent.

Such a thing would stupefy anyone. Even those who had seen many things in their life had never witnessed such a spectacle before.

Refining pills like frying vegetables — which alchemist had heard of this before? Even those who came from an Alchemy Emperor's lineage would not believe such a thing. Pill refinement that could

instantly produce fate pills like stir-frying vegetables while the crackling sounds resembled soybeans — such a thing was simply impossible.

Anyone who told a cultivator or alchemist such a thing would be instantly kicked out of the door for fabricating a lie since such a thing was absolutely impossible in this world.

Of course, this was until today when they all saw this scene unravel in front of their eyes. At this second, they were entranced as if they were in a dream. One had to know that anyone with a little bit of common sense knew that pill refinement was a very serious matter. One wrong step and the entire cauldron would be destroyed. Moreover, pill refinement had very stringent qualifications.

This was the most basic of knowledge, but today, Li Qiye's process had destroyed everyone's common sense. How could refining pills as if one was stir-frying vegetables not shock everyone?

Although many people had begun to regain their sanity, they couldn't help but utter in a daze: "No, no way this is real."

At this moment, no one knew how to express their feelings with words. As for the group of Huangfu Hao, the Vinepill King, and the Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint, they suddenly became confused and didn't even know how they had lost.

At this time, Li Qiye gave the four refined fate pills to the four

people who helped him earlier and smiled before saying: “Favors deserve to be reciprocated, so these fate pills are yours.”

“This, how is this possible...” The old alchemist who was the first to help Li Qiye accepted the fate pill and shouted in horror with his eyes wide open: “This, this is a five transformations fate pill with seventy percent purity! I have never seen a five transformations fate pill able to reach this level before!”

“It is not only seventy percent purity, this yellow color is almost golden. This is the highest grade... This pill will definitely help me break through to the Ancient Saint realm!” Another who helped Li Qiye also accepted a pill and screamed with excitement.

“No way, right?” In just a moment, many people gathered around, wanting to examine the pills in their hands.

“This is unbelievable.” A very respected old alchemist took a look at one of the pills and couldn’t help but utter in awe: “I have never heard of someone be able to refine a five transformations pill to seventy percent purity — this is simply impossible. Moreover, this near golden color, could anyone in this world actually refine this type of pill to such a level? If there is someone, then it has to be an Alchemy Emperor!”

“Incredible, I have opened my eyes now after seeing this scene.” In an instant, many people who saw the pills immediately discussed and commented while thinking that this was too amazing.

Meanwhile, the four people who helped Li Qiye earlier and obtained this level of fate pill were crazily excited. This level of fate pill couldn't be bought; simply put, they were priceless treasures.

“Let me take a look.” The Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint couldn't help but draw closer as well to look at the fate pill in the hand of one of them. His face quickly turned pale as he staggered backward while absent-mindedly murmuring: “How...? Only an Alchemy Emperor would perhaps be able to refine this type of five transformations fate pill...”

Chapter 699: Death Before Accepting Defeat

The old alchemist from the Radiant-Sea Sect was the most accomplished regarding the alchemy dao within the sect. Even his enemies held this view with respect. The moment he said these words, many people gasped and looked at Li Qiye.

All of a sudden, the astonished eyes of every spectator fell on him. Who was Li Qiye? He was too young and had no fame to his name at all. Could such a person actually be an Alchemy Emperor?

A person couldn't help but ask: "Young Noble Li, are you actually an Alchemy Emperor?"

Li Qiye chuckled and said: "Alchemy Emperor... how should I respond? At the very least, I have never wished to become an Alchemy Emperor. For a person like me, plant cultivation and pill refinement is only a hobby, an interest whenever I am bored. A person like me does not wish to become an Alchemy Emperor. Such an achievement is meaningless and unable to satisfy me."

This answer left everyone speechless. One of the spectators looked up at the sky and started to scream; they even had the impulse to commit suicide by running head first into a wall.

Refining pills like cooking and casually creating five transformations fate pills with seventy percent purity... With a single gesture, he was able to refine the finest of pills. And this was only a hobby, something he worked on when he was bored?

If this was the case, then what about them, the alchemists who worked their entire lives to study the dao of alchemy and pill refinement? How could they withstand such a shock? They might as well just commit suicide by using a piece of tofu.

What was even more ridiculous was that he nonchalantly declared his lack of interest in becoming an Alchemy Emperor — an achievement like this actually meant nothing to him.

This truly made people want to dig a hole to jump down. To all of them, an Alchemy Emperor was an apex existence, with unmatched glory. Even a Godking would act cordially towards an Alchemy Emperor. Immortal Emperors would also require the help of one at times.

Becoming an Alchemy Emperor was one of the highest of glories that any cultivator or alchemist in the Stone Medicine World continued to yearn and work towards for their entire life.

But now, Li Qiye's words made it sound like this achievement was something insignificant. How could they withstand this injustice? How could they not want to just jump off a building?

The madam only smiled while standing next to Li Qiye. If this was her first time listening to these words, then she would be suicidally angry as well, but now, she had slowly grown accustomed to her Young Master's arrogance.

Nevertheless, no one felt that Li Qiye was arrogant at this moment. Even if he was, they still felt that he was in a position to

say such words. Those with power had the qualifications to be arrogant.

A person couldn't help but whisper: "How does this compare to the four alchemy prodigies?"

This question left everyone present in silent contemplation. Many people felt that Li Qiye was much more talented than the four prodigies.

"You guys have lost." Li Qiye smirked as he glanced at the group of Huangfu Hao.

The Vinepill King's expression suddenly paled, and he inadvertently bowed his head. He had nothing to say; Li Qiye's pill refinement had left him short of breath.

He was a proud person. As an alchemy vine who was born in a cauldron and forged by its flames, he was destined to become an alchemist.

Although he felt inferior compared to true geniuses like the four prodigies, he didn't necessarily agree with being weaker than someone like Huangfu Hao, who people called the fifth prodigy.

However, after seeing Li Qiye's pill refinement, he had lost confidence and became speechless. He couldn't make sense of his thoughts.

“Losing to this level of alchemy dao is not a shameful thing at all.” The Alchemy Saint eventually sighed. He didn’t say anything else as he decisively took his leave.

The Dragon Princess was not convinced at all. Her heart only wanted revenge and to kill Li Qiye. However, she couldn’t do anything except leave at this moment as she followed the Alchemy Saint. Before leaving, she coldly glared at Li Qiye one last time with murderous intent in her eyes.

Meanwhile, Huangfu Hao stood frozen on the spot. He initially wanted to humiliate Li Qiye, and if Li Qiye dared to retaliate, then he would use that as an excuse to kill him.

However, he didn’t expect to lose with the dao of alchemy that he had always been proud of. Before Li Qiye’s refinement technique, his own was not worth mentioning.

He finally regained his sanity and solemnly exclaimed: “There is something strange in his Heavenly Cauldron, there must be a problem inside!”

He wanted to show off in front of Madam Zi Yan by humiliating Li Qiye so that she would understand that only a real genius like him was worthy of her, but due to this sudden crushing defeat that left him with no face, he had to find an excuse.

“You can’t even lose gracefully, how pitiful.” Li Qiye lazily glanced at him and smiled: “It seems that this is the best your Huangfu Clan has to offer. It has to be in decline since it can’t even

afford to lose a single king medicine, how embarrassing.”

At this time, many people were watching Huangfu Hao. Although they were reluctant to speak, they couldn't help shake their heads. If there was something strange going on with Li Qiye's Heavenly Cauldron and he intended to cheat under their watchful gazes, then people would have already noticed and pointed it out. Moreover, the fire energy and medicinal fragrance of a newly refined pill was apparent even to those who didn't study the dao of alchemy.

“I would have nothing to say if you actually defeated me with your true abilities.” Huangfu Hao turned red and made more excuses: “Refining pills like cooking — anyone with some common sense would know that this is impossible. Hmph, in my opinion, something is definitely going on with your cauldron. It can't be a cauldron, it must be some kind of illusionary spell.”

“Common sense?” Li Qiye glanced at him and smirked: “To me, common sense ain't shit! Only the unskilled would consider common sense as words of truth!”

An expert from the previous generation gently shook his head and interjected: “That is impossible, even if it was an illusionary spell, how could it fool so many people here? Moreover, these four fate pills are real and completely new; they are anything but fake.”

“Yes, these four fate pills are definitely authentic.” An older alchemist added after appraising Li Qiye's pills.

It didn't matter if the people here were biased against Li Qiye or annoyed at him; real experts would still admit the truth. For alchemists, people with such a supreme dao of alchemy were worthy of respect, just like how they admired Alchemy Emperors so much.

“Haha, not necessarily, a few evil arts can't be seen through.” Huangfu Hao sneered and said: “Maybe there were already four fate pills hidden inside this cauldron. Refining them like cooking was only an illusion. Give me these four pills and I can also do the same.”

At this time, Huangfu Hao was resorting to extreme excuses. No matter what, he had to break Li Qiye's reputation since this was his only way out.

“Five transformations fate pills with seventy percent purity, moreover, they have a yellow shade that's almost at the point of a golden glow, where can you find this type of fate pill?” Someone felt that Huangfu Hao was going too far. Were it not for the fact that they were wary of the Huangfu Clan, they would have laughed at him already.

“I'm afraid no one in present times can refine such pills. If there was someone, then perhaps the venerable ancient alchemist from the Alchemy Kingdom would be capable.” A Royal Lord mused.

Huangfu Hao tried to discredit Li Qiye, but he was underestimating the situation. Earlier, many people were on his side and voiced their support. But now, no one stood up for him, causing his face to burn red.

Li Qiye looked at him with one eye and leisurely stated with a smile: “Can’t even afford to lose. Just say the words and I will have pity on you. I’ll let you have your king medicine, no big deal, it’s only a cabbage. Is there a need for you to act so shamelessly?”

“You...” Huangfu Hao was shaking with anger. He was in a dilemma, but he had to follow through to the very end. If he chose to bow down to Li Qiye, then he would lose all face in the future.

Huangfu Hao took a deep breath before glaring at Li Qiye and saying: “If you didn’t use any evil tricks or an illusion, then very well, let me and everyone else have a look at your cauldron. Whether it is an evil trick or an illusion will be clear at a glance.”

An alchemist couldn’t help but shake his head and comment: “This request is too unreasonable.”

The cauldron was an alchemist’s second life; it was a part of the alchemist. Even ordinary alchemists would not easily let an outsider look at their cauldron.

The reason was very simple. Each cauldron was carefully groomed by an alchemist with careful feeding. Whatever they fed the cauldron or its fire source were things that alchemists would not easily reveal to others.

What’s more, each alchemist had refined countless items and shared these experiences with their cauldron. Any alchemist would have deep ties with their cauldron; they would even consider it as

part of their body.

Unless it was someone very close or trusted, alchemists would normally not take out their cauldron for outsiders to see, let alone this many strangers.

“What, you don’t dare to do so? If you don’t, then clearly you have a guilty conscience.” Huangfu Hao sneered and said: “Bah! Using such despicable means yet you still dare to say you have beaten me!” At this time, Huangfu Hao was going insane from shame, growing his anger. He was like a vixen that had lost her mind!

Madam Zi Yan couldn’t help but coldly say: “How shameless.” A wise ruler like her seldom talked people down, but today, she had to voice this negative statement.

Huangfu Hao’s face was flushed after being called out by the madam. However, he still wanted to struggle to the very end, so he sneered at Li Qiye: “Li, do you dare to take out your cauldron to prove your innocence? If not, then you are a cheater who only knows how to use wretched means!”

Many people in the crowd couldn’t help but shake their heads. Some even despised Huangfu Hao’s actions.

Chapter 700: Becoming Ashes

Many people here didn't like Li Qiye, especially the young male cultivators who even wanted to end him just because he had a beauty like Madam Zi Yan. It was only natural for those who adored her to hate him!

However, even if they considered him as an enemy, they still had to admit that his dao of alchemy was peerless. And now, when Huangfu Hao stubbornly refused to admit Li Qiye's victory, it truly made others feel that he was shameless.

Before this, many of them liked Huangfu Hao, and some even wanted to become friends with him. He was the descendant of the Huangfu Clan and an amazing young genius. Moreover, he had some ties to the Alchemy Kingdom. The people here assumed that he would eventually become a hero of this generation, but now, those who priorly wanted to befriend him couldn't help but shake their heads.

Li Qiye nonchalantly glanced at him once and said: "It is not that I don't want to let you see my cauldron, it is more that my cauldron has a bad temper and might kill you if we are careless about it. That wouldn't be good. I am a lover of life and peace and do not want someone to die without a burial due to turning into smithereens."

After hearing this, the madam standing next to him couldn't help but chuckle. If her Young Master was a lover of life and peace, then everyone else in the world would be considered saints. After hearing this, she knew that someone was about to die.

“It is only a cauldron while I am a Heavenly King, what’s the big deal? I could suppress it at any moment.” Huangfu Hao sneered: “In my eyes, you are afraid of letting me take a look because I will expose your tricks!”

At this time, Huangfu Hao crazily attacked Li Qiye; he wouldn’t allow any opportunities to slip by. His mind was devoured by the situation and his thoughts strayed.

Back at the Golem Square, Li Qiye overwhelmed him with wealth and caused him to lose all face. And then, back at the alchemy garden of the Giant Bamboo Country, he was blown away by Li Qiye without any consideration. Today, he was expecting to reverse the tides and humiliate Li Qiye, but instead, he was met with an even more bitter showing. He absolutely would not forgive Li Qiye, someone who dared to oppose him like this. Even if he was going to become a malicious ghost, he still wouldn’t forgive Li Qiye!

“Okay then, since you want to see it so much, there’s nothing I can do.” Li Qiye smiled and said: “However, if anything does happen, I am not responsible for it.”

Having said that, he slowly took out the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron and gently tapped it.

“Hmph, it’s only a cauldron — can’t reach the apex.” Huangfu Hao harshly smiled. He was extremely confident and accepted the cauldron from Li Qiye’s hands.

At this time, everyone held their breaths while watching this scene play out. Although no one believed Huangfu Hao, they still wanted to see just what kind of cauldron it was.

“Open...!” At this time, Huangfu Hao made a mudra with his hand, but the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron didn’t have the slightest response.

This shameful situation made Huangfu Hao feel unbearable. In the blink of an eye, his blood energy soared to the sky in a very ferocious manner. He changed to a different mudra and shouted: “Open!”

“Buzz!” At this time, the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron was finally activated. What fell onto the ground was a regularly shaped cauldron.

Huangfu Hao smirked and came forward. He stretched his hand out in order to check the fire source of the cauldron.

“Poof!” However, the moment his hand went inside, it immediately burst into ashes.

“Ahh!” Huangfu Hao cried out. Horrorstuck, he rapidly retreated. However, the cauldron’s fire source instantly erupted like a volcano. The cauldron’s fire rushed out and filled the sky, instantly surrounding Huangfu Hao.

“Ah...” A very shrill and miserable scream echoed across the sky. In an instant, even though he was a Heavenly King, he was still immediately incinerated into ashes. The moment the fire source returned to the cauldron, one could only see ashes fluttering in the sky. A Heavenly King had died in such an unbelievable manner.

Ever since it completely reached the highest attainment back in the lost alchemy garden of the immortals, the cauldron ceased to be the frog of the past.

Remember that the cauldron was unique in this world. For millions of years, it had always been searching for a chance to reach the highest level to truly transform one last time. Thus, after the transformation, the Myriad Heavenly Cauldron was no longer a cauldron and could be called a god, a true deity!

Its fire source had no equal, so it was not difficult for it to burn a Heavenly King to ashes.

“Such a powerful cauldron, amazing. This type of cauldron can only be controlled by a Legendary Alchemist or Alchemy Emperor...” After seeing the tyrannical flame of the cauldron devouring the sky, many alchemists were lost in admiration. This seemingly ordinary cauldron was definitely incredible!

“Aizz, one will lose out if they do not listen to their elders.” At this time, Li Qiye slowly recalled the cauldron and said: “Like I said earlier, this cauldron has quite a foul temper. It doesn’t want to interact with anyone besides me. Well now, he carelessly threw away his life. Dang it, cauldron, you’ve really done it now. How could you turn a Heavenly King into ashes like this? You think it is

easy for someone to become a Heavenly King?”

Everyone suddenly went silent after hearing this while the madam couldn't help but reveal a smile. She already knew that her Young Master expected such an outcome since Huangfu Hao was courting death.

A tranquil atmosphere ensued right after as no one dared to step out to demand justice for Huangfu Hao. Many of them believed that he was asking for it.

The Vinepill King, who was also antagonistic towards Li Qiye, turned pale. At this time, his palms were drenched in cold sweat while he himself shuddered from the chill that assaulted his spine.

He was secretly glad and praised his own fortune. Luckily, he didn't follow Huangfu Hao along to the very end. Otherwise, perhaps his end would be just like Huangfu Hao's, being incinerated into ashes without a burial.

He quivered and didn't dare to say another word or stay at this place any longer. He turned around and used his fastest speed to leave Dao-sense Peak.

At this point, Li Qiye gathered his winnings. A stone flower over one million years old, a three million year old king medicine, and a four million year old king medicine from the Radiant-Sea Alchemy Saint.

“Sigh, are these not just cabbages? If you can’t handle losing, then just say it. What’s the big deal? Losing your life just for these common spirit medicines... Was it worth it?” Li Qiye looked at his spoils but didn’t pay it any mind. To others, king medicines were priceless treasures, but Li Qiye was too lazy to even bother looking at them. Not mentioning the distant past, he had taken an amount of king medicines from the lost garden that could scare people to death.

This sarcastic remark left everyone here speechless. They could only lament the fact that the fella had the ability to make such arrogant comments.

However, at this moment, he did something that would drive people even crazier. He looked at the king medicines in his hands and threw them to the Imperial Draco-Bull as if they were cabbages while saying: “It has been tough carrying me this whole way, so I’ll reward you with these.”

This maddening turn of events left everyone looking silly. From the beginning, they all thought that Li Qiye was just saying it for fun, to exaggerate his wealth by calling king medicines cabbages.

But now, it turns out that this guy truly considered king medicines as cabbages! He actually threw these million year old king medicines at a buffalo to eat.

“Gnom-nom, nom...” At this time, the Imperial Draco-Bull was like a cow eating peony; it quickly ate the king medicines.

“No!” An old alchemist couldn’t help but to bellow a sad scream after seeing such a wasteful act. He couldn’t help but tremble with his eyes wide open, glaring at him while stuttering: “But these, these are king medicines...”

Everyone was stunned. These three king medicines couldn’t be obtained by many alchemists, even many great characters, despite trying to find one throughout their entire lives. Even a great power would treat a king medicine like a priceless treasure.

But now, such priceless treasures — in the eyes of everyone — were fed to a buffalo by Li Qiye. Could anyone actually be more irrationally wasteful than Li Qiye in this world? Little ancestors, the nouveau-riche, and even the most lavish young immortals in the heavens couldn’t compare to a fart from a prodigal son like Li Qiye! Even the most wasteful little ancestor wouldn’t feed king medicines to a bull, right? This was simply absurd!

Even a little ancestor would treat a king medicine like a treasure! However, Li Qiye considered them as cabbages!

After seeing the buffalo before them actually swallowing all the king medicines after just three bites, a lot of people here felt hurt. There was no justice in this world!

In just a moment, the hearts of many people cried out in pain. They actually had to witness three king medicines being swallowed by this buffalo.

“Damn it, just let me go jump off a building. You guys, don’t stop

me!” After seeing such a heart-breaking scene, someone howled and couldn’t bear to look any longer.

However, after the bull finished swallowing the three king medicines, it still looked as if it wanted more and stared at Li Qiye in a pitiful manner. The bull was a Draco-Bull, and its species liked eating spirit medicines the most. For the Imperial Draco-Bull, king medicines were scrumptious delicacies.

Li Qiye looked back at the more than three million year old king medicine and the imperial medicine whose age exceeded five million years in his hands and quickly said: “Fine, we still have a long ways to go, and you will still need to work hard later on. Stuff yourself and put more effort into it.”

Having said that, he threw the king medicine and imperial medicine over to the bull as well.

“Gnom—nom...” The bull’s tongue rolled out and swept the two roots into its mouth where it then began to chew.

Suddenly, many people directly went down to their knees and stayed there. A lot of them had turned pale due to unbearable heartache. They had no words for such a prodigal son.